

The governor choice is clear for some voters

Kansas voters won't be able to say they don't have a choice for governor this fall. In fact, the choice has seldom been more clear.

The Republican candidate promises to continue cutting the state's budget and the income tax. Under his prompting, the Legislature has cut something like \$800 million to \$900 a year from the state's income-tax bite while holding onto a .45 from a .6 of 1 percent sales tax increase passed in the last administration.

Gov. Sam Brownback and his allies have halted the growth of state government, which had gone on year after year - no matter which party was in power - for the last half century. He says he'll continue to cut spending and taxes while protecting schools and a few other programs.

The Democrat, on the other hand, promises to undo the "damage" allegedly done by the governor and conservative Republicans in the last four years. Rep. Paul Davis of Lawrence, the long-time minority leader in the Kansas House, won't say exactly how he plans to restore the cuts to education and other programs, however.

The unspoken promise is that he'll raise taxes. No one has really pressed Mr. Davis on this issue so far, even as partisan reporters and partisan editors trumpet his campaign appearances. Thoughtful, neutral observers such as Professor Chapman Rackaway at Fort Hays State University, wonder when he'll be put on the spot.

The obvious answer is, unless he's going to continue Mr. Brownback's policies, he's going to have to raise taxes. So far, Dr. Rackaway writes, Rep. Davis has said only that if elected, he would appoint a commission to study the issue.

"In simple terms," the political scientist wrote, "Brownback has lowered taxes. If Brownback's tactic was as disastrous as Davis claims, the answer is to raise them. But this is politics, and it's never that simple."

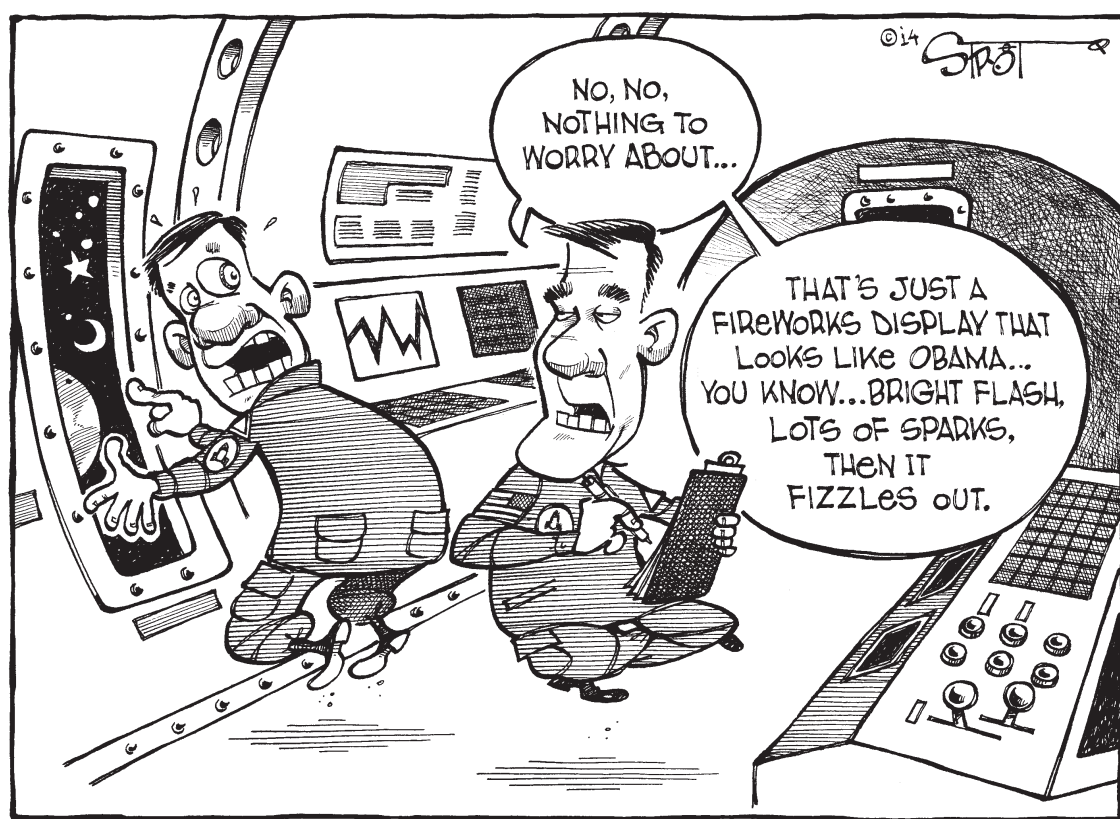
Even if Mr. Davis does admit he'd raise taxes, however, it seems unlikely that the fall campaign will see much change in the Legislature, where allies of the governor - and many who are, if anything, much more conservative - likely could block any tax increase.

The result might be four more years of Brownback policies without Mr. Brownback, assuming Mr. Davis were to be elected. And while he claims a lead in some polls, a Davis victory seems far from certain at this time.

For one thing, the veteran House member is not exactly a household name. When voters realize that the only logical answer to the big question is that he will back more spending and higher taxes, they may think twice before they toss out the one they know.

Between now and election time, we're all going to hear a lot more about both men. This campaign has aroused national interest. Liberal forces - Democrats, public-employee unions, those who believe in big government - see the Brownback cuts as a real threat to their policies nationwide. They will throw millions into this campaign, as will conservative groups that see great success in the governor's policies.

But that's OK. It just means voters will have a real choice: Smaller government and lower taxes, or bigger government and higher taxes. Which do you like? - Steve Haynes



Reader hopes for partnership

Dear Editor,

First, I'd like to thank Rodney Neitzel for his forward thinking and high hopes to unite Cheyenne County even though it seems that many people in both Saint Francis and Bird City are still not ready to let a 100+ year-old feud rest. I know his heart and efforts for an alternating host of the July 4th Celebration were for the benefit of the entire county.

I'm not sure most people today even know what the original discord was regarding; instead they just continue to follow behavior that was modeled by generations before that they should dislike the people from that "other" town (whichever side that may be).

I grew up here for 18 years before moving off to college, and I never even knew there was a "feud" between the two cities. Naively, I just thought we had spirited competition between rival

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schools. It wasn't until I moved back 30 years later, to find the delicate feelings between the two cities were more than a school rivalry and are still quite strong. So, I did some digging.

According to "Kansas Trails" on genealogytrails.com, agitation started in 1885 between the two towns. On April 1, 1886, Gov. John A. Martin issued a proclamation declaring Cheyenne County organized and designating Bird City as the temporary county seat. On February 26, 1889, an election was held to determine the permanent county seat with the town of St. Francis receiving the majority of the votes. Discord continued regarding the matter with questions of the legality of the election and in 1891, the legislature passed an act, which was approved by Gov.

Lyman U. Humphrey, declaring the election legal and the permanent county seat to remain St. Francis.

In this time of dwindling rural population, I find it unfortunate that not all residents of both cities are willing to openly work together to improve the quality of life for all people in Cheyenne County. The census in 2010 for our county was 2,726 - which is the second lowest since 1890 when the population boomed at 4,401.

Isn't it time we let an act that was passed by a long dead Governor rest with the past?

Rodney, I hope you'll not let the current discord keep you from trying again.

In thoughtful regard,
Carol Sloper
St. Francis

Ag Talk with Jeanne

Sooty molds and black point in wheat

By Jeanne Falk



Agronomy Specialist

With multiple rain delays slowing the progress of wheat harvest, some areas of the state are reporting sooty molds and grain with a discoloration known as black point. Black point has been reported in fields throughout northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado. Both of these problems are caused by molds that grow on the mature wheat.

These molds are normally not aggressive pathogens in wheat, but they can rapidly colonize mature plants. These diseases are most problematic when rain re-wets mature plants and causes harvest delays. The sooty molds are often a cosmetic problem because the mold growth is very superficial on

the chaff and glumes. The sooty molds can make for a dusty harvest, however. If the timing of the rain coincides with the late stages of kernel development, the molds can begin to colonize the outer layers of the wheat kernel, resulting in a gray-black discoloration called black point. Commonly, the embryo end of the kernel is most discolored, but entire kernels can become gray or black as a result of the black point.

There is no management of these diseases at this time. The fungi that cause black point can sometimes cause problems with germination and reduce seedling vigor. Therefore, seed lots with symptoms of black point should

be tested for germination, either with an at-home test or sending a sample to Kansas Grain Inspection. If black point is causing germination problems, fungicide seed treatments can often improve the germination and ensure good stand establishment.

Pictures of black point, including a sample from this year in northwest Kansas, are available on the K-State Sunflower District Agronomy website at www.sunflower.ksu.edu and click on the agronomy tab. You can also find us on facebook at K-State Sunflower District Agronomy or follow us on twitter at @cropswithjeanne.

Casey's Comments

Progress

By Casey McCormick



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This year's "Mid-Summer Classic" is less than a week away. Today, it is hard to imagine baseball's All-Star Game without black or Latin players. But that is the way it used to be.

Last weekend we visited the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum at 18th and Vine in Kansas City, Mo. Not only does it tell the history of the black baseball teams, but it relays the story of our country. How individuals were expected to perform, and even fight for their nation, but were given less than equal rights.

There was so much more to see and learn of the neighborhood that became the center of the African American culture in a major city.

Seeing the struggles and success that individuals and groups met with dignity and perseverance is a testament to the human spirit. And their struggle helped the American democracy become what it should be: fair to all people.

Back to baseball, looking at the All-Star rosters shows how far we have come. Of the National League's nine position starters, five are either black or Latin American. On the other team, the American League has six of their nine players.

It is easy to take for granted the sacrifices of Jackie Robinson, Larry Doby, Elston Howard, Roberto Clemente and so many others. But their crossing the line of

segregation made the sport, and our country, much better.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Lee Roy Neitzel, St. Francis; Barbara Ewing, St. Francis; Wendell Warner, Hays; Marvin Kamla, Haigler, Neb.; Mrs. Kenneth Deardoff, Peoria Ariz.; Gary Leach, St. Francis; Marvin Miller, St. Francis; Marvin Zimbelman, St. Francis; Royce Wiley, Burlington, Colo.; Beth Heitschmidt, Guymon, Okla.; Bev Crane, Hugoton; Bill Smull, Tacoma, Wash.; Eldon Zimbelman, Wichita.

Be thankful for angels amongst us

Letter to the Editor:

We visualize angels dressed in white flowing robes with glowing haloes crowning their heads. But I am convinced there are angels among us who don't look like that at all. A couple of weeks ago one arrived at my farm dressed in blue jeans and a t-shirt, armed with a gasoline-powered weed whip. Last week a trio appeared. One was attired in capris and sandals and operated a walk-behind mower. Another wore denim overalls, a jaunty straw hat, and cleverly managed to take care of a big repair job. The third was a young one, just turning nine years old. How do little angels learn to expertly operate Hustler riding mowers? The support these angels gave me, and the work they accomplished were true gifts of love.

Last Saturday night I had the

opportunity to experience the quick response of about eight angels, including our Chief of Police, our volunteer firemen, and the Midwest Energy "guy". I am in awe and full of thanks for each of these men.

None of us have to look far to far to see the angels among us. This community thrives because

of the love, loyalty, hard work, and dedication of angels who give time, donate money and reach out to embrace one another in times of need.

These angels are usually not hard to spot if we keep our eyes open. Thanks to all you angels out there!

Janet Carman

GOD SAYS
 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.
 Matthew 23:24, 25

The Saint Francis Herald

(USPS 475-960)

A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$40 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$45 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$51 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050



Nor'West Newspapers

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