

# Opinion

## Educating our youth to make the right choices

There has been a great deal of interest shown in helping the county's young people make the right choices and educating them as to how the use of drugs and alcohol can affect their lives now and forever. At a meeting of "Kids Making A Connection," a group of concerned individuals interested in helping kids and parents, the discussion turned to curfews — should the cities establish a curfew and should the county have a curfew?

Both the St. Francis City Council and the county commissioners have been approached about establishing a curfew but they were not interested and appears to be the consensus of the two boards that it was a "parenting issue" -- they did not feel that they should be responsible for telling kids and their parents what time they were supposed to be off the streets and home in bed.

This type of thinking is understanding for boards as they are elected officials and many voters do not want a curfew. Of course, these may also be voters who think there are no drug or alcohol problems in the county.

Most kids have a certain time when they are to be home. Parents need to make sure their kids are in at that time and sometimes, that's not an easy task. Many children today are being raised in a one-parent home and that parent is forced to work to make ends meet. When they arrive home after a long day's work, there is a meal to fix, clothes to wash, oversee homework and, all the time, they can hardly wait until they go to bed. Making sure the kids are home by a certain time is just another chore.

However, if the school coach tells kids they are to be in by a certain time, chances are — they are there and without the coach checking on them.

The St. Francis chief of police and the sheriff were present at the meeting and they said that there was a

problem with kids being out on the streets at all hours and on any given day.

Did these parents know where their kids were? Maybe. Or maybe not. And, what is there to do after 10 a.m. on a school night or midnight on the weekends? Not much that is constructive.

A curfew would require our law officers to work harder but, if a kid was out on the street after curfew, that would be an opportunity for an officer to stop them and, if there was an obvious indication that drugs and/or alcohol was present, it could stop an accident later on.

Both Goodland and Burlington have curfews and the law officers in these towns are satisfied with the results. St. Francis and Bird City are not as large as these towns, there are still problems.

If a law officer brought your child home at 2 a.m. what would you do? Would you be mad at the law officer or your child? And, what should the punishment be? Maybe the first time would be a warning but, after that, should the kid be given community service or should the parent be given community service? Today, it appears that some parents are more than willing to come up with the money to pay a fine but, do community service....? Don't think most parents would like that! In fact, they might make good and sure that the kid was home before curfew time.

The day is coming when there may be some pressure put on parents, kids and community leaders to set some regulations such as a curfew in order to save lives.

There are a series of meetings to help figure out some of the answers to these questions. Concerned citizens, whether they be grandparents, parents, kids or neighbors should plan to attend and be a part of helping kids make the right choices. —Karen Krien

## We get what we pay in services

If you are tempted by the idea that we operate schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, public utilities and law enforcement only when the economy is robust enough to support them, you better prepare yourself for an influx of better-educated individuals from outside our borders to administer and op-

### Letters to the Editor

erate our essential industries, businesses and governmental agencies, as well to provide medical care and technical services. My opinion is that we had better do

(pay) what is necessary to keep our schools and local and state governments running, and run them in such a way as to maintain our ranking as one of the "first world" nations - unless being second rate is satisfactory to you. It isn't for me.

I pay my taxes willingly and gladly. I would like to keep as much of my income for my personal use as I can, but I also believe that taxes are the rent I pay to live in this country and I will not settle for low-rent housing. I subscribe to the adage that you get what you pay for, or less if you don't watch out.

If I am getting less than what I expected, it is my fault that I didn't take the necessary precautions to make sure that what I bargained for was delivered. That requires monitoring governmental services and insisting on knowing what our political representatives are planning, doing and supporting.

By the way, did you research each initiative and candidate in the last election?

Or did you just read The Globe?  
Donald R. Smull Sr.  
St. Francis

## 'Letters to the Editor' writing guidelines

The St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author. Mail letters to The St. Francis Herald at Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756

or by e-mail sfherald@nwkansan.com; or Bird City Times, Box 220, Bird City, KS 67731, or bctimes@nwkansan.com.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

### Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Mary Lee Frewen, St. Francis; Kelly Frewen, St. Francis; Mill & Seed, St. Francis; Steve Kirkham, Grand Junction, Colo.; Dennis Merklin Construction, St. Francis; J. Raile Overturf, Farmington, N.M.; Lee Beeson, Bird City; Opal Seaman, Goodland; Edwin Raile, Strafford, Mo.; Lorraine Seamon, St. Francis; John R. Dobson, Sun Lakes, Ariz.; Ernest Amsberry, Snyder, Colo.; Janis Elfers, Edson; Fred Magley, St. Francis; Shawna Blanka, St. Francis; L.E. Gockley, Fort Morgan, Colo.; Marvin Confer, St. Francis; Melvin Confer, St. Francis; Otto Bandel, St. Francis; Harvey Zwegardt, St. Francis; R.A. Fornelli, Carlsbad, Calif.; Rita Koros, St. Francis; Leonard Vyzourek, McDonald.

**GOD SAYS**  
This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
Psalms 118:24

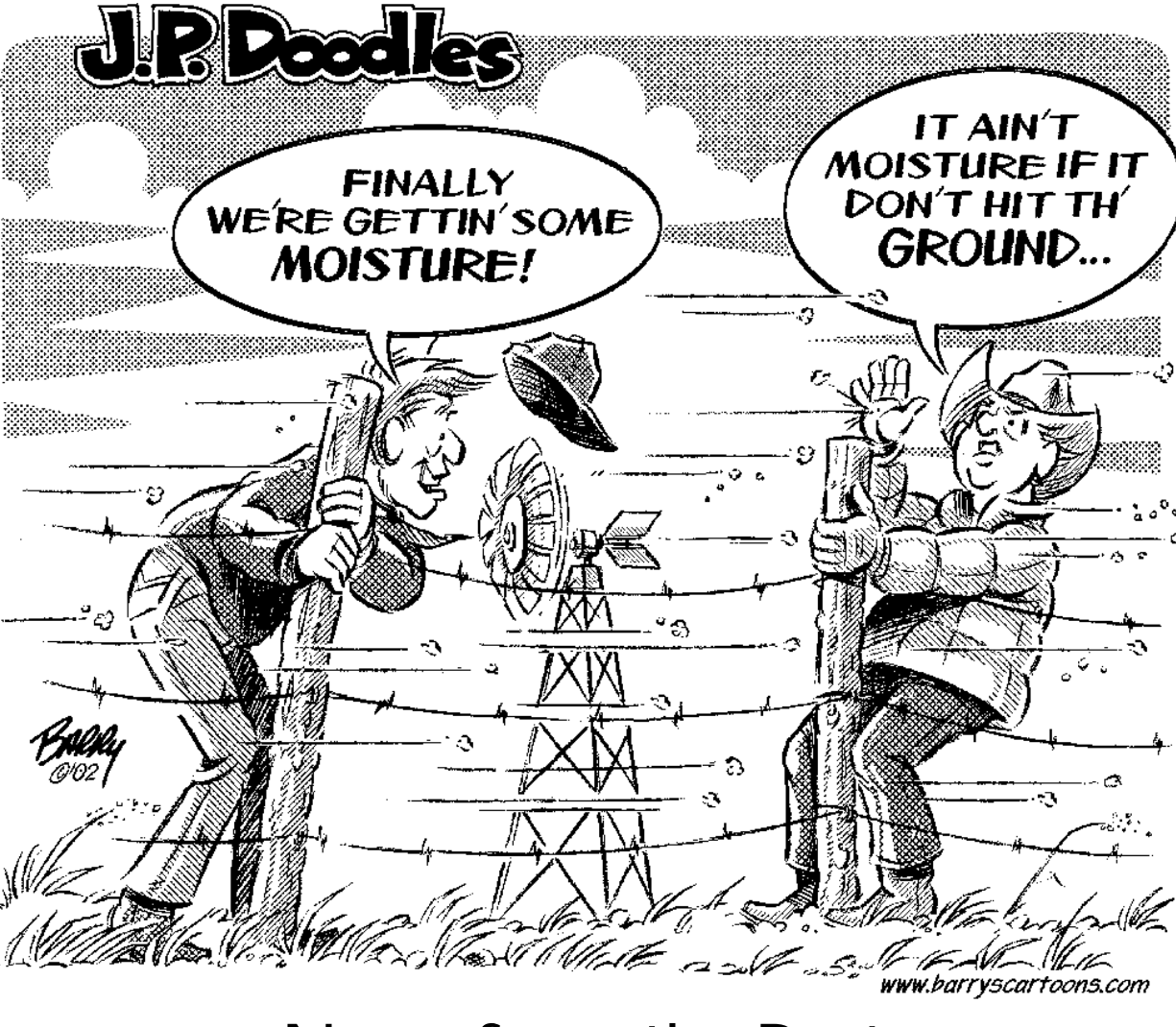
# The Saint Francis Herald

(USPS 475-960) A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756  
Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756, 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 \$28 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$32 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$35 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$23 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756

**Nor'West Newspapers**  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  
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## News from the Past

### 5 years ago - 1997

Margaret Bucholtz was named chairman of the Cheyenne County Commissioners. Other commissioners include Ron Krien and Jane Brubaker.

Over 100 members and guests attended the annual meeting of the St. Francis Equity and witnessed the burning of the mortgage. Dale Rath, board president, held the match.

The Cheyenne County 4-H horse judging team came home with the national overall team award following competition Jan. 11 at the National 4-H Horse Classic Western Division at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. The team included Megan Douthit, Chad Douthit, Nikki Krien and Katie Keller with Sue Zimbelman coach.

Dallas Michelle Reed, daughter of Mike and Lacy Reed, St. Francis, is the first baby of the year to be born to parents living in Cheyenne County. She was born Jan. 9.

Steve and Cynthia Haynes and Haynes Publishing Co. of Oberlin have purchased The Goodland Daily News and The Colby Free Press.

### 15 years ago - 1987

Ron and Dee Wilson have opened Dee's Creations, a lovely floral shop, at 200 West Jackson Street.

Approximately 300 people attended the annual meeting of stockholders of the St. Francis Mercantile Equity Exchange held Jan. 10.

Leonard Stoneman of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., presented the Goodyear Award for conservation accomplishment to Cheyenne County Conservation District Board of Supervisors Spencer Schlepp, Link Zwegardt and Kenneth Knorr.

Rich Grace was elected president of the St. Francis Chamber of Commerce at the annual meeting. Rick Lucas was the outgoing president.

Dan and Rita Stephens became the proud parents of John Lewis, born Jan. 22 at the Cheyenne County Hospital. John was the first baby of 1987.

Susan Hilt, Kelley Lewis, Lisa Jolliffe, Bob Lee and Leslie O'Brien were elected to the National Honor Society.

Eighty-three boys and several leaders participated in the Buffalo Bill District Klondike Derby held near St. Francis Jan. 24-25.

### 25 years ago - 1977

Mike Day reported to members of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce on the recreation program. He said the new ball park was completed, but that there is still a \$5,000 debt for the lights.

Joe and Helen Handwerk announced this week the sale of the Jolene Shoppe, a ladies' and children's store they have operated here for 34 years. The Handwerks founded the business in 1943. The new owners are Russell and Melody Smith, who moved to St. Francis last summer. Russell teaches vocal music in the St. Francis schools. Sawhill Park is undergoing a face-lift

### as part of its renovation. Most of the dead trees had been removed by the city and county crews. The evergreen trees, one aspen tree and several young trees are all that remain.

Cheyenne County winners of the Kansas 4-H Key Award include Dennis Weeden, Cindy Curry and Kelly Morris.

Connie Forsythe is president of the Cherry Creek 4-H Club. Steve Gipe of Bird City presented a slide show of his trip to Washington D.C. at the last meeting.

### 60 years ago - 1942

The board of county commissioners met Monday for an organizational meeting for the new year. Marvin Mills was again chosen as chairman. Dr. T.J. Walz was named county physician. Frank Anderson was retained as county engineer.

Gas burners have been put in at the furnaces in the Thompson Store on the corner, and in the Ben Franklin store and these two places of business are being heated with this modern fuel.

The committee for the sale of Defense Bonds appointed a new chairman. Mr. Leigh Dowling, the retiring chairman, resigned from his post as chairman of the committee due to Postal regulations that prohibits Postmasters from taking the active initiative in that part of any organization. He was replaced by Mr. John Towns, principal of the St. Francis grade school.

A change in ownership of the Cottage Camp and Grocery at the southwest corner of town took place last Friday when invoice was taken and a deal closed. The new purchasers are Mr. and Mrs. G.E. Hoover, who come from Haigler. Retiring from the business are Mr. and Mrs. Jack McGowan.



## CHURCH DIRECTORY

- Wesleyan Church**  
Hwy 36 • 734-2727  
Pastor Perry Elkins  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Bible Study 7 p.m.
- Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 9 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
- Grace Assembly of God**  
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899  
208 E. 2nd  
Rev. Rob Meyer  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30  
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.
- Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
- Peace Lutheran Church**  
202 N. College  
332-2928 Pars. 332-2308  
Pastor David Rosbach  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.
- First Christian Church**  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Pastor Joe Briseno  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Church Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.
- Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor Arlin Cochran  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45
- St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Beryl Gibson  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30
- United Methodist Church Office** 332-2292,  
Church 332-2254,  
Pars. 332-3170  
512 S. Scott  
Pastor Dennis Livingston  
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.
- First Baptist Church**  
2nd & Scott • 332-3921  
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:30  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,  
Wednesday prayer service, 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- Clough Valley Baptist Church**  
Pastor Al Davis D. Min.  
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF  
332-2506  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m. CT  
Worship 10:00 a.m. CT

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