

Congress attempt to lure people back to plains

One of the more interesting things to pop up in Congress last year is something called the New Homestead Act, a bill backed by a bipartisan coalition of prairie legislators who want to use tax incentives to lure people back to the High Plains.

Kansas' Sen. Sam Brownback is one of the principal sponsors.

The plan would give people tax credits for home purchases and repay students loans if they promised to live in a target county where population has been declining. Businesses would get tax credits for moving to the area or creating new jobs.

A venture capital fund would back new businesses in the target area, defined as counties which have lost at least 10 percent of their population in the last 20 years.

Much of the Tri-State area of Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado would fit the bill. Some counties, Decatur among them, have lost that much in far less than 20 years.

It's not that there is really anything wrong with this area. Some counties — those bolstered by a large state institution or a packing plant — have held steady or grown.

Most of us have farm-based economies that simply can't be sustained as the number of farm families continues to decline.

That is a trend that's been unbendable since about 1900. And for more than a century, the government has tried to stem the tide.

The truth is, though, that no matter how many billions the government has thrown at the "farm

problem," the number of farmers has continued to shrink. It's been that way pretty much since Cyrus McCormick invented the reaper.

And the evidence suggests that nothing the government can do will change the trend. Farm population will continue to shrink for a few more decades, then bottom out with farmers no longer a significant force in the population.

And all that money the government spent, well maybe it helped somebody. But it won't have changed the facts of life.

This new bill?

Who knows. Tax credits and help on students loans haven't been spectacularly successful in ending the rural doctor shortage. Is there any reason they would work better on the populations shortage?

That depends to some extent on the final language of the bill, assuming it passes. Some incentives might work, while others will fall flat. The only way to know for sure it to try.

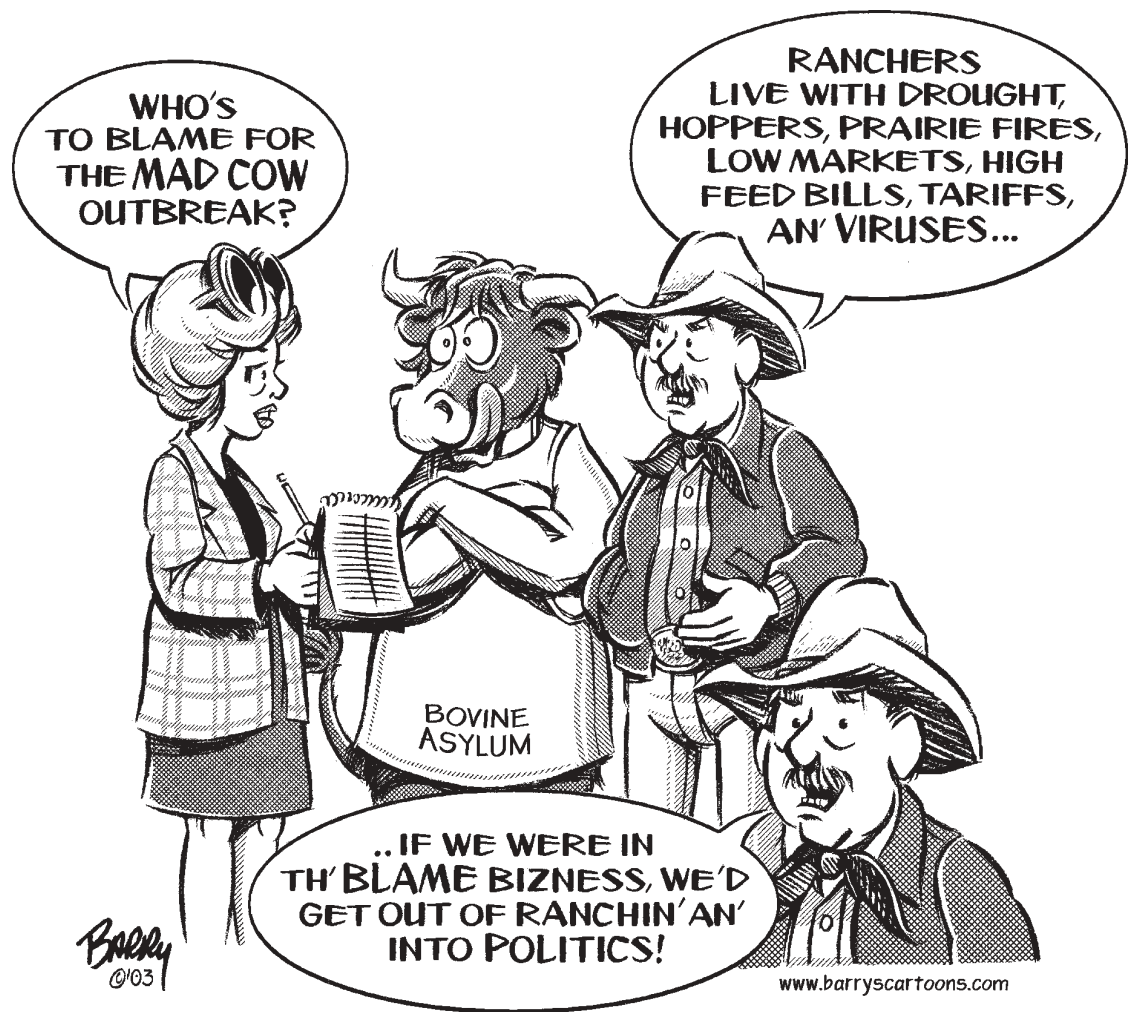
The five-year indenture seems flawed, for one thing. What incentive will people have not just to move to some other town at the end of the period?

And then there is America's cultural bias in favor of cities, against small towns.

We idolize the rural life, but no one wants to live more than half an hour from the mall.

Will it work? Who knows.

But it's nice to see someone at least making an effort to help us. — Steve Haynes



News From the Past

10 years ago - 1993

Candidates for Woman of the Year in Cheyenne County include Penny Cassidy, Annie Dulany, Carly Duquette, Lucinda Houtman, Shalom Kellner, Crystal Nipps, Natalie Rogers and Kaylee Wilkens.

25 years ago - 1978

Wolfe Auto Parts in St. Francis announced this week the addition of a head and engine service department. The main purpose of the new department will be to provide a high quality and prompt cylinder head, engine and transmission rebuilding facility.

1978 graduating seniors include Eric Alsop, Rachelle Bartlett, Katie Button, Rory Cahoj, Mike Cecil, Steve Confer, Mark Cooper, Leonard DeBolt, Dawne Evins, Sondra O'Leary Finley, Dennis Floyd, Darrell Ford, Doyle Ford, Connie Forsythe, Kelly Gienger, Sena Harper, Perry Hilt, Philip Kinen, Traci King, Dale Kirby, Steve Love, Beth Newman, Craig Peter, Gary Peter, Jerry Peter, Peggy Peter, Sandy Raile, Tamara Randall, Michael Rogers, Brent Rueb, Alan Schlepp, Daryl Schultz, Carla Shoemaker, Mary Stimbert, Douglas Towne, Roger Vrbas, Sharmis Walz, Eva Weems, Danny Winston, Danny Workman, Lori Zimelman and Debbie Zweygardt.

After several years of disrepair and neglect, the old Streamliner Motel has been overhauled and changed into a center for the Cheyenne County youth to enjoy in good clean fun.

30 years ago - 1973

A special service of consecration was held at the new Immanuel United Methodist Church in Bird City last Sunday. A large crowd

McDougal-Sager Grain Company

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was on hand for the occasion. Pastor Don Zook is leaving Bird City after six years in the community.

Cadet Richard L. Cram, son of Dr. And Mrs. Ernest R. Cram, St. Francis, graduates from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, M.Y., on June 6. Cadet Cram received a bachelor of science degree and his commission as an Infantry Second Lieutenant.

At the St. Francis Community High School Board of Education meeting, the revised plans for the new dressing room were reviewed.

Members of the class of 1923 who attended the alumni reunion include Ruth Miller Kellum, Trinidad, Colo.; John Henry, Hendley, Neb.; Bea Miller Baxter, Benkelman, Neb.; Mabel Liming Adams, St. Francis; Dorothy Tilsey Lillich, St. Francis; Raymond Kellum, Long Beach, Calif.; Amy Carson Holzwarth, Denver, Colo.; Nelle Kanel Sherlock, Goodland; and Elizabeth Zimelman Nolan, St. Francis.

60 years ago - 1943

Lyman Hancock and Rue Rogers are in Wichita this week attending Boys State as representatives of the city of St. Francis.

"Fannie Crosby" is the name of a play to be presented by the Youth Fellowship of Lawn Ridge Methodist Church next Sunday night.

Hangin' With Marge

Hooked on Phonics

By Margaret Bucholtz



One of the things in my life that has always embarrassed me is my spelling. When I grew up, schools didn't teach how to sound out a word — we did what was called sight reading. I am sure that there are several of you who can remember the book "See Spot." There was no sounding it out — we were just taught what the words were.

a dictionary but the problem with that was I couldn't sound out enough of the word to find it in the dictionary. When I got my first computer with spell check I was surprised how many words the computer couldn't figure out what I was trying to say.

Anyway I struggled but feel I am now doing a little better. However I am not any different than most people, I always feel a little better when I find someone who has the same problem. The other day a friend was telling me about an incident that happened to them and I loved it.

Seems as though there were a

couple of people traveling to an event several hundred miles from here and they got caught in a big snow storm and had to stay over in a rather large city. So one of them said, "Let's find something to do tonight. While I take a shower you look in the phone book for some kind of entertainment."

When they got out of the shower they asked if they had found something to do. The reply was "no, I have looked and there is nothing at all under the I's."

How much in life we miss just because we cannot spell!

Couple appreciates cross restoration

Letter to the Editor

To the editor: We were pleasantly surprised awhile back to see the cross in the Stuart pasture repaired. Then we saw the picture of the Girl Scouts plus a story about the project in the paper.

This cross has always been an inspiration to us and it means a great

deal to see it in good shape again. Our community is fortunate to have Girl Scouts and leaders like Debbie Grace and Lisa Schlepp. Also dads like Spencer.

We are glad you chose repairing the cross as a community project.

Alvin and Marie Holzwarth

GOD SAYS
"It is mine to avenge: I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."
Deuteronomy 32:35

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Worship Warms the Heart

First Christian Church
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Pastor Richard Garcia
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

Living Water Fellowship Ministry
Pastors:
Terry & Tiffany Glasco
Box 310; Bird City
785-734-2363
Sunday:
Fellowship 9:30 a.m.
Worship & Word 10 a.m.
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday:
Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Last Friday of Month:
Healing Service 7:30 p.m.

United Methodist Church
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
Pars. 332-3170
512 S. Scott
Pastor Nel Holmes
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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