

Legislators given task of finding the right plan

The new year is off to a good start! The Kansas Supreme Court made a decision on Monday and, what this decision should do is place the focus on the children and educating them — where it should be! And, the legislators will have to find a suitable funding plan for schools by April 12 or the Court will tell them to try again. The Court isn't going to settle for a wishy-washy plan — the Court wants something concrete — something that is going to help educate our kids — something that will help mold the future.

It's probably going to cost because the Court says Kansas education isn't sufficiently funded. It may be surprising how the Legislators come up with the funding — probably some funding may come in changing the funding formulas and this is an area where small schools such as St. Francis and Cheylin could suffer. There is the weighting factor which plays a big part in small school funding.

We don't know what the Legislators will come up for a funding plan. They could be looking at raising taxes, cutting programs or consolidating schools. A committee was formed when the session closed so those Legislators would have time to study the complicated formula and would have a better idea of which path to take when the Court handed down its decision.

The small schools have already made steps to cut costs. There were staff members and others

who were cut or changes were made. While these were not pleasant duties for the board and administration, they were made to keep the doors open, cut some of the frills and to continue giving a good education to students. Yes, there are less students and it would have been great to have very small classes for that one-on-one education. However, the money wasn't there.

Now, the boards and administrators need to keep focused in educating our children. For smaller schools in northwest Kansas, chances are, there won't be any great industry come in and save the population so, it will be necessary to continue keeping schools open with less students, thus less money, even if the Legislature pumps more money into education. It is still going to take the same amount of money (or more) to heat and maintain the buildings. Transportation will still cost and, even if many people don't think sports are important, there will continue to be sports, hopefully music, band and art, just to name a few of the extra-curricular activities.

Most people, especially in the small Kansas schools, did not agree with Judge Bullock's decision but, when all is said and done, maybe we will thank him. Who knows what the final plan will be but hopefully, the Legislators will rise the task and find the best plan for all schools and, most of all, the best plan for educating our children.

—Karen Krien

Hangin' With Marge

Outstanding People

By Margaret Bucholtz



We all have people in our lives that we look up to. Some are local people who maybe have been your 4-H leader, a minister or a teacher, others are family members that have done or said something that you value throughout your life.

Then there are the famous people who write books or have television programs that you enjoy learning from. Even Ann Landers had some good advice from time to time.

One that I never cared much about was Dr. Spock. He was far too liberal for my taste, but I clung to every word that Dr. James Dobson spoke.

Then came Oprah and many times I listened and enjoyed her program, but the king of all kings is (or maybe was) for me, Dr. Phil.

Dr. Phil seemed to know a lot about everything. If you wanted to raise a family, lose weight, get rich, you name it he had the answers. UNTIL the other day!

I have to admit I had never really watched his show until one day last week. Now I had seen him

on several other programs, just not his. Anyway he had his wife on there with him and they were answering letters from people. This lady wrote in and told them how she had two little children, a very successful husband, but she just couldn't find any time for herself. Everyday was full with cooking, cleaning, washing, and by the time her husband came home she was exhausted. All she wanted was just a little alone time for her to do some writing or maybe just some peaceful time so she wouldn't be so tired all of the time.

Dr. Phil said, "I can understand

this because my wife likes her alone time also, so she sets the alarm for 5:15 in the morning. That gives her about two hours to be alone. One time I complained why she had to set the alarm so early, but then she reminded me it was the only time she could get for herself."

Well Dr. Phil, about all I could say would be, "Great sacrifice on your part! Can't see how it could help with that not too tired feeling, but I'll bet your right — not many husbands would be up to bother their wife at that time."

Casey's Comment's

By Casey McCormick

I am amazed at how arrogant mankind can be. We use a small portion of our brain's capacity to direct what technology we have and think we're the tough kid on the block.

But the powers that do control this planet have a way of pulling us back to reality and humbling us.

For instance, an earthquake under the surface of the Indian Ocean produced devastation on an unprecedented scale last week.

The elements in our area of the

Earth can produce tornadoes, blinding dust storms, blizzards and flood. At the same time we watch fields that are suffering from several years of drought.

We live in both a beautiful area but also it can be a dangerous place. And yet we believe we are the ones in control. How far have we come from the dawn of man-kind? Maybe not as far as we think.



GOD SAYS

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:1-2

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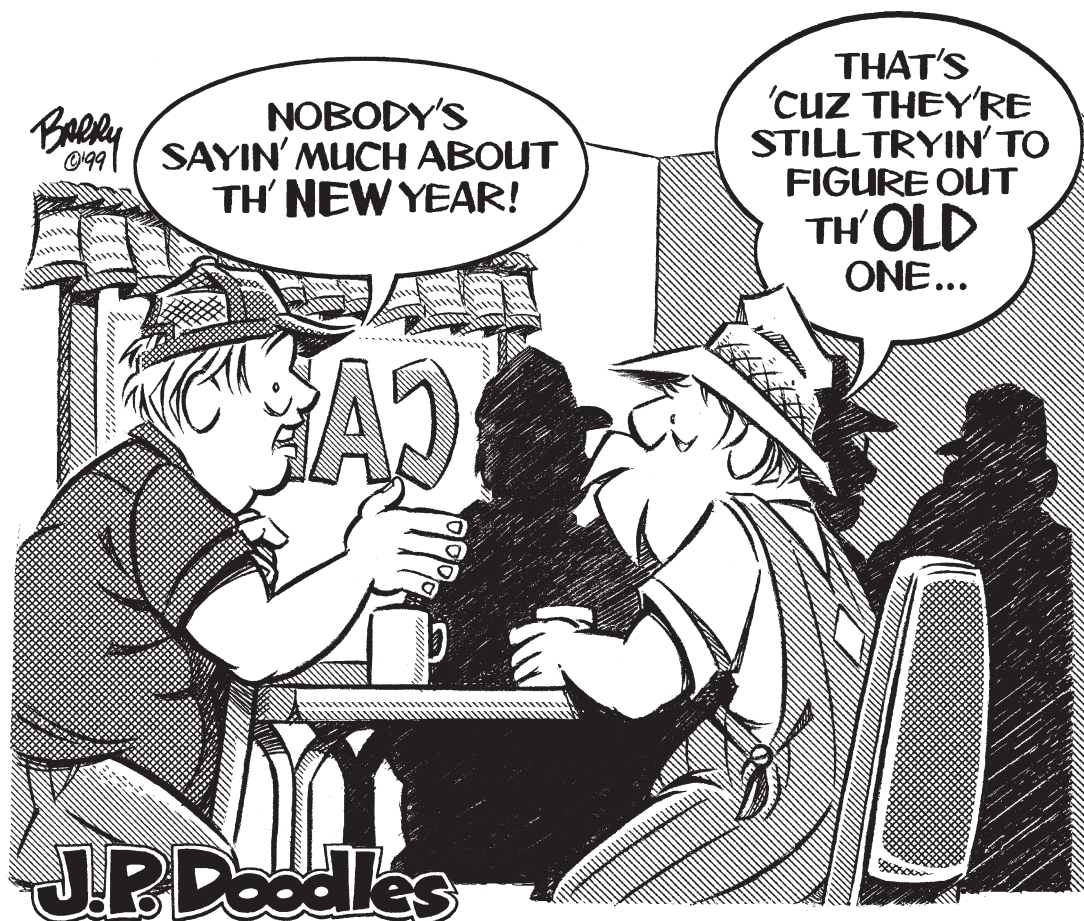


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News From the Past

5 years ago - December 1999

Members of the City Council voted to hire a person to teach Spanish to the dispatch people at the city plant.

Karen Jones of St. Francis has been vice president of beef education for the Kansas Cattle Women Association for 1999.

Due to the fact that the St. Francis Invitational Wrestling Tournament was canceled because of the weather forecast, the Indians opened their season with a 33-33 tie with Colby.

Both the Indian and Lady Indian basketball teams placed third at the Sagebrush tourney. Receiving tournament honors were Michelle Young and Mike Wolters. Brett Petersen was the winner of the boys free-throw shootout.

Andy Poling, former St. Francis Indian, received All-American football honors at Pittsburg State University.

Connie Jenkins delivered over 200 coats to homeless youth at a shelter in Denver.

The following St. Francis football players were honored by The Salina Journal: Jon Zwegardt, Tyler Raile, Brad Culwell, Mike Dorsch.

Jon Zwegardt has been invited to play in the Kansas Shrine Bowl. **20 years ago - January 1985**

Martin Hilt of St. Francis was honored with the rank of Eagle Scout at the Scout Court of Honor.

A new restaurant will open in St. Francis soon. The Park Hill will be serving most of the menu from the old La Fiesta Restaurant.

Micky Lampe has retired as

Deputy Register of Deeds at the Cheyenne County Courthouse. She began her job in January of 1977.

Elmer Walz has sold Walz Welding to Greg Walz. Elmer has owned and operated the Walz Welding for 35 years.

The Bird City Times has a new editor. Vickie Waters has assumed editorship replacing current local editor Evelyn Creach. Creach was editor of the Bird City Times for 12 1/2 years.

St. Francis has grown in the last 40 years, it should continue to grow, and its future looks bright according to a study conducted at Emporia State University.

Members of the Clough Valley Church took a sleigh ride while Christmas caroling.

Retailers reminded of fines

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

There are many wonderful reasons to celebrate this time of year, the beautiful winter weather, snow, winter holidays, and for students, a break, from school. Retailers often see a shift in employees this time of year with college students home and high school students on vacation.

On the 2004 Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey that was administered to Cheyenne County, sixth, eighth, 10th and 12th graders a year ago the following 30-day usage rates were reported:

- 10.1 percent reported that they

had smoked cigarettes

- 7 percent had used smokeless tobacco and
- 22.8 percent had consumed beer, wine, or hard liquor

It is very important that retailers and their employees are aware of the recent state statute changes that have been made. Effective Dec. 1, 2004, All violations by a licensee under the Kansas Cigarette and Tobacco Products Act involving the sale of cigarettes and/or tobacco products to a minor will result in

the maximum civil fine of \$1,000.

With students having a little extra time on their hands in the next couple of weeks, it is important for our local retailers to be on the look out for fake ids and underage alcohol and tobacco sales. For additional information on recent statute changes or to schedule a retailer training contact the Regional Prevention Center at (785) 462-8152.

Kim Chain
Regional Prevention Center

Worship Warms the Heart

<p>Wesleyan Church Hwy 36 • 734-2727 Pastor Scott Baker Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p>First Christian Church 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Pastor Tony Christians Sunday School 9:20 a.m. Church Service 10:30 a.m. Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p>United Methodist Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, 512 S. Scott Pastor Morita Truman Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>
<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. Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 332-2888 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Jim Martin Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>St. Francis Community Church 332-3150 • 216 W. Washington Pastor: Richard Garcia Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>
<p>Peace Lutheran Church 202 N. College 332-2928 Pars. 332-2308 Pastor David Rossbach Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Living Water Fellowship Ministry Pastors: Terry & Tiffany Glasco Downtown 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 Sunday evening of Month: Healing Service 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis Equity</p>
<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Knodel Funeral Home 202 S. Benton • St. Francis 785-332-3131</p>	<p>First National Bank Member FDIC</p>