

## As the pressure mounts the vultures are circling

As the pressure mounts in Topeka to scrape up more money for schools, the vultures are circling. Gambling supporters, backed by big casino operators, want to open up state-owned operations in Kansas City and southeast Kansas. Slot machines would be allowed at dog tracks in Wyandotte, Sedgwick and Crawford counties, plus Dodge City if anyone wants to build at track there.

This is a bad idea and a poor way to finance schools, for a lot of reasons:

- Gambling turns out to be a tax on people who can least afford it. It's not rich folks pulling the levers at prairie casinos. The high rollers are in Las Vegas, where the glitz is.

- No, it'll be the poor, the needy and the addicted who finance Kansas gambling.
- Gambling sets a poor example for our kids. How can we tell them it's bad to gamble to excess, then — with a straight face — use gambling money to pay for their schools?

Maybe we should tax drug sales to support schools. There's more money in drugs, and the dealers would like an "in" with the kids.

- Gambling would set our squeaky-clean state government up for major corruption.

Under the plan about to surface, a casino operator would pay \$35 million up front and at least \$200 million to develop the resort. A quarter of the state's take goes into a fund for property tax relief. The state's 75 percent — estimated at \$300 million — would go into the gen-

eral fund for schools.

Tracks would pay the state \$15,000 per machine up front for 7,000 slots, but owners could deduct that from future taxes.

State officials would have to decide which companies get these lucrative contracts. If the casinos can afford this kind of taxation, there will be millions bet and millions lost.

And those millions make for a shaky situation when a few officials make the decisions. The potential for corruption is great; operators in this industry have a long history of corruption.

- Someone has to lose half a billion to a billion dollars a year to make this scheme work. It won't, for the most part, be tourists.

It'll be us losing that money. Most likely, it'll be a disproportionate share of those Kansans who can least afford it who pay this tax.

This is, as one legislator described it, "a lose-lose" deal for our state. It benefits a few people owning the casinos, but not the bulk of the population.

Well, maybe we could give school kids free field trips to the casinos.

They could see where the money comes to pay their teachers, put a few nickels into the slots and pull the lever.

The results should be a lesson to them — but we doubt it.

Let's not gamble with our state's future. Legislators, vote no. — *Steve Haynes*

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

A lot can happen in a year. A year ago I covered two stories; the Kansas State Pheasant Championship and Cheyenne County Fishing Tournament. Last year both fell on the same weekend. Joey and I spent that Saturday with the Ringneck Country folks, bringing home some birds from the team that we followed in the field.

Sunday we were at Keller Pond. I took pictures and got the story while Joey had fun with his buddies. I also brought home some nice trout that day. Between the pheasant and fish we had a pretty memorable

meal. Sort of a bonus for a working weekend.

Anyway, the winners of the fishing tournament a year ago were the Baxter brothers, Tim and Slim.

This year was very different. My son and I were at the pheasant hunt last weekend. It was the same event, only bigger and colder than the year before.

The fishing tournament was held this weekend and there were 20-some teams competing. However one thing was different.

The Baxter brothers did not compete.

Tim died Friday night after

months of being in a coma. His wife, two boys, Slim, family, friends and community had struggled with false hope that Tim would get better and be back to fish, hunt and be the family man we all remembered. But it was not to be and the family made the agonizing decision to take him off of life support.

Those left behind are left to mourn. But I have to believe that Tim has made it to the "happy hunting grounds" in the sky.

By Casey McCormick



## Reader urges equity members to check into other options

I am commenting on the proposed merger of the St. Francis/Haigler Equity with the Frontier Equity which is based at Goodland. My husband - Dale Rath - is the only board member of the St. Francis/Haigler Equity Board that is openly voicing reservations toward the merger. He has nothing to do with these comments.

It seems as if this is a VERY FAST moving plan to make a decision that would take control of a business that, in my opinion, should have been confronted by ALL members to discuss and make their decisions before paying local money from our Equity for a "consultant" to ONLY do positive details for the merger to be known - not

### Letter to the Editor

AFTER the fact of a study was completed. There could be other options if we, as members in this area - including Nebraska/Colorado patrons, - would combine our efforts and ideas to continue our ownership.

Would this merger jeopardize other local businesses such as Wheeler Equity - Mill & Seed - Bartlett Grain - Keller Automotive - Bumper To Bumper (as Car Quest

is part of the Frontier Equity and would be feasible for them to use their own business) - St. Francis Tire and possibly other businesses?

I suggest we really find out the facts and discuss new ideas — this does not need to come to a vote so quickly without some more detailed work and input FOR and AGAINST the proposed merger.

Mary Rath  
St. Francis

## GOD SAYS

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.  
2 Corinthian 5:10



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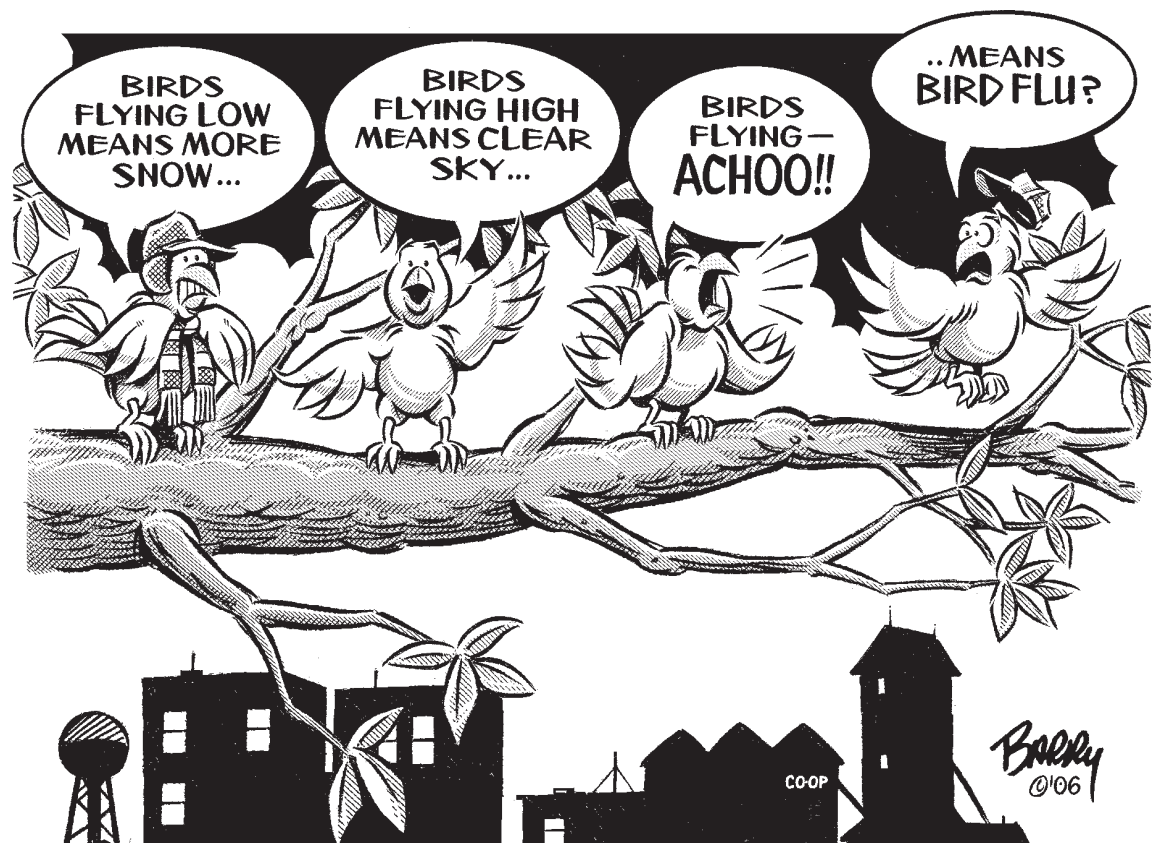


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## News From the Past

### 100 years ago - 1906

Dr. J.A. Lamb now drives a four hundred-dollar outfit. He bought the team from Charley Brougham and the buggy and harness from Miller & Deal.

A new land firm has been organized in St. Francis with the rather fascinating name of Republican Valley Realty Company.

Friday of last week the St. Francis passenger train No. 189 made a record-breaking run from Orleans to St. Francis. The distance of 134 miles was made in four hours and 35 minutes with a 20 minute delay in Herndon.

Charles Foucher purchased a fine team from Peter O'Leary for the small sum of \$280.

E. Caster, out in Beaver, with two good carpenters has his new house nearly completed.

The dance held in the new barn

just completed by Pete Sturm southwest of town proved to be a very pleasant affair.

Many of our schools observed Trail Day on Jan. 29, which is also Kansas Day, and each pupil and teacher contributed one penny to help supplement the appropriation made by the Legislature for the purpose of marking the Santa Fe Trail.

**50 years ago - 1956**  
The Cheyenne County Soil Conservation District is receiving assistance of a new employee, Lenard Schlepp.

Leslie Doggett gave a talk about his poultry project at the Lawn Ridge 4-H Club meeting. Sue Hendricks and Marlene Harkins showed several methods of cutting and preparing vegetables during their demonstration entitled "Sliced Just Right."

With only six boys qualified for the Kansas State High School Wrestling Tournament held at

Oakley, defending champion St. Francis successfully defended its crown. It was the fifth straight wrestling championship for the Indians. Norman Zwegardt and Richard Vandike earned championships. Both wrestlers went undefeated through the entire season.

### 20 years ago - 1986

The junior high Academic Bowl team, comprised by Jennifer Johnson, Bryon Sherlock, Tobi Davis, Shawn Rogers, Shelly Bier and Jeremy Busby, participated in an academic bowl at Colby Community College. Robert Brown, math instructor, and Principal Ward Cassidy sponsored the students. Joanna Scoby, an eighth grader, won the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee.

Hazel Douthit was presented the Friend of 4-H award During County 4-H Days.

## County Health Talk

### Colorectal Cancer Update

By Susan Roelfs

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer (excluding skin cancer) of both men and women in the United States.

The American Cancer Society estimates that about 105,000 new cases of colon cancer and 42,000 new cases of rectal cancer are diagnosed each year.

People may be able to lower their risk of developing colorectal cancer by managing the risk factors that they can control — such as diet, physical activity and tobacco and alcohol use. Avoiding tobacco, limiting alcohol, meat and high-fat foods and eating at least five servings of fruits and vegetables each

day as well as plenty of whole grain foods can lower risk.

It is recommended that regular colorectal cancer testing begin at age 50. The tests include:

Fecal occult blood test every year, or  
Flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years, or  
Colonoscopy every 10 years

### This is the Place

What a hoot this could be!!

It's called "The Great US 36 Highway Treasure Hunt," a 400-mile treasure hunt across Kansas on US 36 on Sept. 15, 16 and 17 (Friday - Sunday).

It's a border-to-border garage sale, and this could be so much fun. In the process, this event will increase tourism and make Cheyenne

County a destination.

Who wants to help put this together for Cheyenne County?

Call the Cheyenne County Development Corporation office at 785-332-3508 or Elmer Kellner at 785-332-2590 by March 10 — they will give you the info you need for success.

**Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 11 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

**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.

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**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.

**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.

**St. Francis Community Church**  
332-3150  
204 N. Quincy Street  
Pastor: David Butler  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor Jim Martin  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

**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.

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
202 N. College  
332-2928 Pars. 332-2308  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Fellowship following

**Clough Valley Church of Hope**  
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF  
Pastor Jason Howard  
332-3152  
Saturdays 8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT



St. Francis Equity

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