



People must be held accountable for actions

In this age of increasing Internet use by kids and adults alike, we all need to remember to be responsible users.

In the news this week is a federal judge's apparent decision to throw out the conviction of a Missouri woman who help teens use the social networking site MySpace to bully a 13-year-old girl, resulting in the girl's suicide.

For those who don't know the case, the girl had (in real life) been mean to this woman's daughter, a classmate. The woman then created a fictitious boy and used the persona to befriend the girl. They developed a close relationship, which then the woman intentionally turned nasty. In her final message to the girl, she wrote that the world would be better off without her. No doubt she thought this to be fitting revenge for being mean to her daughter. Then the girl took her own life.

A jury rejected one felony charge of using a computer to intentionally harm a child and deadlocked on a felony charge of conspiracy, eventually settling on computer fraud. And now a judge wants to throw out even that conviction. This in itself is a startlingly timid approach to what should be regarded as a terrible crime. At the very least, this woman should have been charged with negligent homicide.

Think if this had all been in real life. What if this woman had instead gotten a real boy to get close to this girl and then break her heart. Would they have gotten off scot free then? People need to learn that misusing the anonymity of the Internet has consequences. It had real and irreversible consequences for this girl and her family.

No doubt, the woman hadn't intended to cause this girl to commit suicide, and the girl had been suffering from depression. But the fact remains this woman used the Internet to prey on the insecurities of a child. We lock people up for that behavior when sexual abuse is involved, and the consequences this time were no less dire.

The Internet is an incredible invention, maybe one of the most incredible in human history. It unites the whole world in a single place. It lets us see images of Iranian protesters struggling with an oppressive regime or live images from a probe circling the moon. But we can't forget the power that it can have when used for malicious purposes.

We must be responsible users and we must hold people accountable for their actions while under the anonymity afforded by the Internet.

— Kevin Bottrell

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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This Fourth of July was a little quiet for a change.

Of course there was plenty of noise outside the homestead from a plethora of fireworks. But our youngest kids are now high school age and for the first time in years it wasn't us spending disposable income on the celebration.

You might think this made our weekend boring, but Lezlie and I found something else to keep us entertained.

A few months back we came across a Duncan Phyfe style table and four chairs at a local house

sale. It had years of wear and tear and many layers of varnish, but beauty lay hidden beneath.

We removed the cushions from the chairs and began stripping the finish off the wood over previous days from work. Last weekend we were down to the table top, one leg and a few spots of stubborn brown on a chair. At last, every inch of furniture was restored to its unfinished, natural form.

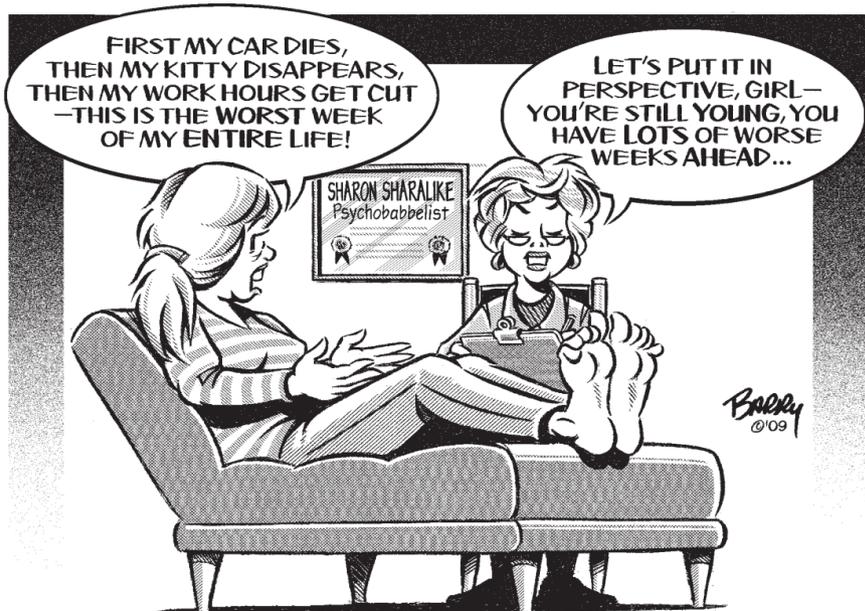
To let the wood speak for itself, we applied a clear coat.

After the seat cushions were given a new wrap of greenish-

grey fabric, they complemented the chairs once they were screwed back on.

It's funny how something that only needed a little TLC and elbow-grease could come into our home, built in 1917, and look like it belonged.

I told Lez that now we will have to build some new family memories around our table. Who knows, the day may soon come when our grandkids are using it to sort out their fireworks cache?



TOUGH TIMES REQUIRE ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENTS...

News From the Past

10 years ago - 1999

Joan Wellman was honored with a card shower as she observed her 50th year of giving piano lessons in St. Francis.

Three St. Francis tracksters were honored by being named to *The Salina Journal* Area High School track and field honor roll. Named were Tyler Raile for the hurdles, Michelle Young for the long jump and Heather Sowers for the hurdles.

The Cheyenne County Fair Board has been notified that the county will receive a grant of \$92,000 for the construction of the new grandstand at the fairgrounds.

On July 7, the Cheyenne County Hospital received a check for \$46,344 from the

Tracy Forrester trust.

Four members of the class of 1934 attended the St. Francis Community High School alumni reunion. They were Faye (Bardwell) Blue, Mary (Ross) Foutz, Alice (Crabtree) Gregory and Velma (Ott) Zimbelman.

25 years ago - 1984

The Saint Francis Herald is collecting historical information on clubs and organizations of Cheyenne County for the Centennial issue of the newspaper.

The St. Francis Community High School alumni association held their yearly reunion. Members of the 60-year class who attended the event included Janet (Schields) Hoak, Merlyn Murren, Ruby (Greer) Harkins

and Mona (Wilson) Frick.

Dr. and Mrs. Melvin Dunn moved to St. Francis this past week and Dr. Dunn plans to open a dental practice at the Cheyenne County Clinic soon. The Dunn's have three children. His dental assistant will be Arlene Scoby.

Members of the St. Francis Recreation Commission include Brenda Day, Robert Grace, Wilma Hendricks, Rick Rogers and Noble Dorsch.

The Cheyenne County Amusement Authority has purchased a miniature train with 250 feet of track for the enjoyment of the younger set. The train includes five cars and was purchased for the price of \$4,500.

Folks appreciate Saintry hospitallity

Letter to the Editor,

My name is Terry and my wife is Donna. On the evening of July 2, we had just started a road trip from Denver and were traveling on Highway 36. About 10 miles west of town the battery indicator light on the dash came on.

As luck would have it we were able to drive on to St. Francis without a problem. Making a

Letter to the Editor

quick lap from one end of town to the other we agreed to stay behind the Ford dealer as this is the make of our pickup.

That evening and the following day we ran into wonderful people who went out of their way to help us. The guys at the Bumper to

Bumper, Mike at the NAPA store, Junior and another gentleman at his shop on the highway, Larry at the Ford dealer, the staff and patrons at the Diamond R and numerous other people who just stopped by our truck when the hood was up to see if they could help in any way.

St. Francis was not our intended destination but what a great place to break down! (We actually had our son and his wife bring the parts late Friday). We stayed at the Homesteader Motel that night and came back to Denver on the Fourth.

We have now planned to come back for the county fair and really see the rest of the town. It was very refreshing to be shown that kind of hospitality under those circumstances. Thanks again.

Terry and Donna Scott
Denver, Co

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Jim Pettit, Springfield, Mo.; Nina Raile, St. Francis; Delmer Johnson, St. Francis; Betty Stroup, Benkelman, Neb.; Mrs. Don Watts, Sacramento, Calif.; Steve Golden, Oakley; Florence Peacock, St. Francis; Elmer Schorzman, San Diego, Calif.; Oscar Whitman Jr., Wheeler; Hertha Kelley, St. Francis; Alan Russ, Auburn;

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Your refund is approved, just no money to issue it

Today is day 77. I visited the Kansas Department of Revenue website this week seeking information on the status of my refund. This was the message given:

"Your return has been received and is currently being processed by the Kansas Department of Revenue. The status concerning your requested refund has not yet been determined. If you filed a paper return, the refund will take at least 8 weeks. Otherwise, please allow up to 14 days for the status to change. Thank you."

I would assume that because they still haven't determined my requested refund when I inquired this week, and when that is determined it could take at least 8 weeks to receive, they are

saying in essence that my refund won't reach me until August. I don't know when they start the count, when it is received or when the actual process of checking it begins.

I contacted a very friendly and courteous employee in the Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Revenue, Topeka, this week and he told me this:

"Tom, Your refund has been approved, but the state stopped issuing refunds the end of May, no money to issue them. Will start again July 7, yours should be issued within a few days of that date. Thanks."

The employee is Bob Clelland and he is always quick to respond to questions I have had with this delay. He told me a few weeks

back that refunds not delivered by July 1 will include interest.

I won't reveal my age, but I thought I'd never see the day when my beloved state was too broke to give back to me a portion of the money I loaned it to use during the last calendar year.

So, instead of complaining, I'll sing.

To the tune of *Home on the Range*:

Ohhhhhh, give me a home,
Where the refunds don't roam,
And a dear aging taxpayer waits;

But this year he has heard,
a most discouraging word,
My state, my state she is BROKE!

— Tom Dreiling

GOD SAYS
...Know ye not that friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.
James 4:4

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Praise the Lord

<p>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.</p>	<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Roger Meitl Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m. Weekday Mass 8 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p>	<p>First Baptist Church 2nd & Scott • 332-3921 J.W. Glidewell, Pastor Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.</p>
<p>United Methodist Church 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>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer No Sunday School Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis Community Church 332-3150 204 N. Quincy Street www.sfccfamily.com Pastor: David Butler Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>
<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Jerry Nowack Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>Solid Rock Baptist Church 412 S. Denison Welcomes You! Pastor Allen Coon Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC 202 N. College Pastor Ken Hart 332-2928 Pars. 332-2312 Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday of the Month</p>

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