



Opinion

More than just ships held hostage by pirates

What is wrong with this picture: Pirates, really just children in leaky boats, carrying rifles and grenade launchers, rule the high seas. They seize ships and demand multi-million-dollar ransoms, which shipping companies and insurance firms are only too willing to pay.

Pirates lurk off the Horn of Africa, among the islands of Indonesia and the Philippines, even in a lake between Mexico and Texas.

When threatened, they murder their victims, then surrender. They know somewhere, they'll get a fair trial and maybe even wind up living in the free world.

The world's most powerful navies - from the U.S., China, England, Germany, Holland, France, all the great and small powers of the civilized nations - seem powerless to stop the pirates.

When pirates are caught at sea, they claim to be fishermen. Instead of blowing them out of the water, the world's navies just let them go. Their arms are seized and they get a slap on the wrist.

Their masters have more boats and more children to send out to sea, anyway. What do they care? They're making a lot of money.

Shipping companies resist arming their vessels. They claim it's bad for business, and besides, just having armed guards might not deter the pirates. Never mind that these kids attack tall steel ships from wooden boats and have to climb the sides to take over a freighter or tanker.

Government officials claim they can't track pirate vessels in an area so vast as the Indian

Ocean, though that seems disingenuous in an era when spy satellites can see virtually anything that moves on the face of the globe and computers can be used to interpret images.

The situation is remarkably like the one that faced the American Navy and Marine Corps in their earliest years, when President Thomas Jefferson sent them to subdue the Barbary Pirates who preyed on Mediterranean shipping off North Africa. The Marines went ashore to assault pirate bases, as we may have to ask them to do in Somalia today.

In that era, more than 200 years ago, the pirates seemingly had all the advantages. Today, surely the world's great and most civilized nations can find some way to discourage and defeat vicious pirates. It must be done.

Our forces should be able to back up international law with military might. They should treat the pirates - and their warlord masters ashore - as the terrorists they are, showing no mercy and giving no quarter.

If arrests and trials will help, by all means arrest those willing to surrender. The rest, treat them with the same mercy they show their victims.

The civilized world cannot afford to be held hostage by pirates, whether off Africa, in southeast Asia or in Texas. Freedom of safe transit on the high seas is too important to all nations to be abandoned.

Unless the world reacts, there will be more killings, more kidnappings and more bloodshed. The time to make a stand is today, not after it's too late to save the next victims.

- Steve Haynes



News From the Past

25 years ago - 1986

Rick Lucas is the new St. Francis Chamber of Commerce president, replacing Scott Condray.

Kim Schultz was named the 1986 Northwest Chapter Sweetheart at the DeMolay Dance on Saturday night.

Edna Steller was the recipient of the Decoration of Chivalry Jewel on Feb. 2. The Jewel recommended by Rising Star Rebekah Lodge 675 of St. Francis, is one of the highest honors a Rebekah can receive.

Dale Duncan, the first St. Francis State placer at 135 pounds in 1934 was at the Wrestling Homecoming held at the high school. Duncan went on to wrestle for Kansas State College (now university). There he place first in the 135 class at the Big Six Championship.

Kandi Lewis spoke at the St. Francis Senior Center about her year as an exchange student in Australia. She spent a year at a Catholic high school and was able to visit many parts of Australia. She visited sheep ranches, opal mines, desert lands, cities and other part of the area the their industries.

The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring

a contest to select appropriate photos of St. Francis or Cheyenne County, to be used on post cards.

60 years ago - 1951

The snow and cold weather prevented many from attending the Kansas Day program at the Methodist Church in Bird City. New officers for Kansas Day next year are Ruby Kite, president, Jane Kite, vice president; Minnie Williams, secretary/treasurer.

A new drive-in, the "Trolley-Inn" under preparation for several weeks on the location just east of the Park Hill Market, announces its formal opening for Feb. 3.

A dedication of the new schoolhouse was held Wednesday evening at South Fork, starting off with a basket supper, followed by a very good program.

Thursday evening the employees of the J.C. Penney Company went in a group to the Keith Friel home to give them a surprise farewell. The group took the Frieles to the Jake Walz home where a sumptuous dinner was held in their honor.

Donald Smith, Colby, began his duties Monday morning as an assistant technician with the Soil Conservation Service in Cheyenne County/

The building housing the for-

mer Bonny Dam Cafe at Hale was recently purchased by the ladies of Hale and has been designated as the Hale Community Hall.

A new manager took over management of the St. Francis Grain and Feed Co. replacing Richard "Pat" Patton, who resigned to accept a Civil Service position in Denver. Earl David is the new manager. He is not exactly new in the full sense having served as a manger for four and one-half years preceding Mr. Patton.

80 years ago - 1931

C.D. Churchill and his assistant Jim Evans, have been doing quite a lot of remodeling at the depot the past week. The waiting room has been a little large and their office has been small so they have changed the partitions and now have a much roomier and better lighted office and the waiting room is still large enough for those who wait for the trains.

There has been quite a lot of remodeling at the Danielson store the past week or so mainly in the basement. A stairway has been put from the main floor to the basement and arrangements have been made to make the basement over into a room for their repairs and certain other stock.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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I understand the importance of buying local, as most of you do too. But some items just can't be found in the area stores that will satisfy a young ladies taste for fashion.

Yep, it must be time to find a prom dress.

Do to my better judgment not to embarrass our daughter in this column (I doubt too many of her friends bother reading it) I won't

go into too many details. Let's just say two trips to Denver after many hours spent shopping on line.

I got to thinking about how much has changed over the years.

My high school proms were in 1977 and '78. Back then disco music turned us into replicas of John Travolta. Everything was big; big lapels, big hair, big shoes and big egos!

I'm really not sure if I miss those times or not.

The kids today sure have an easier time with the style of the day. Their time capsule will probably be a bit more boring than ours.

But it is fun to see them experience the emotional highs of youth. Little do they know these will be their reference points to their own kids on down the road.

Across the County

By Marty Fear



Cheyenne County 4-H team competes

The Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic Livestock Judging Contest was held on Saturday Feb. 19, at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building in Kearney, Neb.

Over 300 students from 11 states evaluated cattle at the contest. Close to 200 junior and senior college students were entered in the contest while nearly 100 4-H and FFA youth were entered. Collegiate students evaluated 10 classes while 4-H and FFA students evaluated eight classes made up of haltered purebred breeding heifers, purebred bulls, prospect steers and feedlot steers. After placing the classes, collegiate students gave six sets of oral reasons, senior youth gave three sets of reasons and junior youth answered two sets of questions on classes.

The 11 states competing included Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Oregon, Idaho and California. Many producers from across the state of Nebraska donated the use

of their cattle during the contest, and allowed youth involved in the opportunity to evaluate high quality classes.

The Cheyenne County 4-H Livestock Judging Team member's competing in the contest included Allison Grice in senior youth and Shakotah Blanka, Garrett Brunk, Emily Elfers and Valerie Wurm in the junior youth division. Allison competed as an individual in the senior division and was ranked 12th overall in reasons. The junior team placed seventh overall and tied for first on the questions classes. Individually, Shakotah Blanka was sixth in placings and fourth high individual overall while Garrett Brunk was sixth high individual in questions.

This was the first contest of the year for the 4-H livestock team. The team will continue to practice and compete in contests throughout the state of Kansas to prepare for the state contest in August.

Livestock judging helps students develop lifelong skills in livestock

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evaluation, teamwork, decision making and public speaking. Long after the students judging careers are over, students will be able to take what they have learned from livestock judging and apply it to everyday situations not only in the livestock industry but also in their future careers.

The Nebraska contest is sponsored by the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic and organized by Matt Ellicott, livestock judging coach and extension educator at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and by Mike Roeber, livestock judging coach and instructor at Northeast Community College. The contest is in its fourth year of existence and held during the final weekend of the Cattlemen's Classic.

Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu with questions or comments. Till next week - Marty

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Marlene Brown, Chico, Calif.; Mary Anderson, Bird City; Chris Bracelin, St. Francis; Dorothy Firestone, Topeka; Terri Novacek, Lawrence; Virginia Galloway, Denver, Colo.; Thelma Schauf, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Ron Krien, St. Francis; Delphine Norton, Ness City;

GOD SAYS
Even so the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!
James 3:5

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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 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8:30 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 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 Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday</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 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday of the Month</p>

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