

# **Postal Service needs** fair shake, not a bailout

the ax across the nation.

Most are small towns where the postmaster has died, left or retired, leaving the job vacant. None is in the immediate area of northwest Kansas, though that doesn't mean we might not continue to lose post offices. Several have closed in recent years, and we have others that do not make money.

The Postal Service is desperate, facing an \$8 billion deficit this year. Mail volume is dropping, competition growing and the service is running out of cash. The mail service still makes a profit, oddly enough, but somewhere along the line actuaries misfigured its payment to the federal pension fund.

The fund is said to owe the Postal Service it can spend this money elsewhere. something like \$70 billion, and the overpayment continues at the rate of \$10 billion a year. It needs fair treatment and common sense, but This has been going on for years.

Faced with running out of cash, though, the service cannot wait for a sluggish Congress to do the right thing. It's throwing whatever it can find overboard.

So far, the service has proposed moving mail sorting from smaller centers across the country the postal budget or allow the service a credit into bigger cities where the post offices suppos- on pension payments. Before the service goes edly are more efficient. (No one believes that, to broke, not after.

The U.S. Postal Service hopes to eliminate 11 start with!) Northwest Kansas is one victim of Kansas post offices among about 2,000 facing this scheme, with mail sorting to be moved from Colby and Hays to Salina.

> Closing post offices where the job is vacant is another initiative. Closing offices where two facilities are close and one could serve the entire area is another. And the service has asked to end Saturday delivery of mail.

> None of the cuts, not even the total, is enough to "save" the Postal Service. One estimate for the cuts is almost \$1 billion of the \$8 billion savings needed.

> Congress will have to step in to save mail service, and that is being cast as "yet another federal bailout." In truth, the government has been dipping into the service's budget to reduce the deficit, and Congress is reluctant to act because

> The Postal Service does not need a bailout. those are in short supply in Washington.

> By fall, we should know if the mail is something America needs, or if we can do without it. That is not a pleasant prospect, however.

> Congress should act now to end the overpayments and to either refund past overages to Steve Haynes

### The Gardener

#### Kay Melia, Master Gardener vkmelia@yahoo.com

For goodness sake, here it is deep into the month of May, with 16 of my garden columns residing comfortably in the bottoms of bird cages, and I haven't even written my first rant about tomatoes! How could that happen in this day and age when tomatoes are always the preferred topic of conversation when two or three vegetable gardeners get together! No one ever asks me how my potatoes are doing, or if my cantaloupes are up yet. Not on your life! It's always "alright big fella, what kind of tomatoes did you plant this year" or "did any of your tomato plants freeze during those low 30s mornings we had" and even

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which I'll explain later) and as of the transplants were set outside with May 20, my cantaloupes aren't up yet but I am expecting them soon.

I didn't plant a new variety of tomato this year. Not that they weren't available, but I just didn't see a new offering that just jumped out and said "hey,plant me!". And so of the 34 tomato transplants I set outside on May 4, 14 of them were Northern Exposure 14 were Super Tasty, four were Big Beef and two were Fourth of July, all of which I grew from seed. I had intended to plant a few Shady Ladys but my transplants just didn't look good so I tossed them.

Yes, I planted quite a bit earlier this year, May 4, for the same reason as usual. The earlier you get the transplants into the garden, the "surely you didn't plant 35 tomato earlier you're going to harvest a plants again since you assured me tomato. Certainly, I try to provide good stuff! last fall that you were going to cut weather protection for the plants. My 5-foot-tall wire cages, with the column was written for the paper bottom 18 to 24 inches wrapped in on May 17. On the evening of May black plastic, are designed to offer protection from both wind and cold during the critical early days of the

no apparent damage. The black plastic provides good daytime heating on sunny days as well as good wind protection. The tomatoes are planted in two rows and I water them simply by placing the garden hose in the row and letting the water flow. I will fertilize them with a liquid solution just before they start to bloom.

Indeed, my tomatoes get special care, but most of it comes at planting time, and for the rest of the season they are just about "labor free." And please remember this... don't let anyone try to tell you that all tomato varieties are alike. Some varieties are better than others. Too often we plant only what is readily available rather than seeking out the

(I must tell you that the above paralyzed and speechless. 18th my garden was hit by windblown nickel-size hail for nearly 10 minutes. Everything is badly damaged. The tomatoes look better than expected, thanks to their protection. We'll see what happens now.)



### **News From the Past**

75 years ago - 1936

Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Ducey and son, Edward of Kanorado will hold the opening Saturday for an opportunity to see a real cirthe Ducey Sandwich Shop, cus when the Schell Brothers to reserve champion honors in which they will operate in the Big 4-ring circus show here in building formerly occupied by April at the city airport. the Red and White Store, one-State Bank building. The shop and lunches and a dance floor will be provided in connection.

The cast for the senior play at the high school has been chosen. Bob Cram and Margerie Mabel Halley, Sam Thompson, on Friday. Ack Reinold, Keith Danielson, Maxine Cook, Opal Dayton and Audrey Ewing.

so long ago that the gears are from 14 different communi- at the end of March.

fashioned of wood. For the first time in several years, residents here will have

half block north of the Citizen of the excavation work of the 1,000 foot steel and concrete will serve sandwiches, pastries bridge in the Republican Valley west of here on 36 Highway the latter part of the week.

#### 30 years ago - 1981

The St. Francis high school mixed chorus, Indian Singers Firkins will play the leading and solos by Kris Bartlett and roles. Others in the cast are Steve Daniels received I ratings Craig Sturm, E. Jane Giffin, at the state 2A Music Festival

The 10th annual St. Francis Spring FFA/4-H Livestock show was held at the fairground Carl Stone has a clock made April 10-11 with 84 individuals retired from city employment

ties in the tri-state area showing 75 head of sheep and 104 head of beef animals. Jeremy Busby showed a crossbred ewe the breeding ewe division. The senior sheep showmanship was It is planned to start some won by Nick Ketzner of Bird City. Jeff Weeden, showing a Simmental heifer, won reserve champion in the breeding beef show.

> The old St. Francis Burlington Northern depot which was built in 1888 and moved by members of the Cheyenne County Historical Society in 1975 to the south side of the Good Samaritan Village is being torn down. Tobe Zweygardt purchased the building from the Historical Society and began the demolition work when he

## Reader gives perspective on Village

Letter to the Editor

Sixty-four years ago I was a —— Letter to the Editor boy of 13 in Cheyenne County when my mother had a stroke

hospital, or its options to care lar to mine. in 1947. She lived until 1961, Hopefully, Cheyenne County for the elderly and the infirm. will continue to provide for the Elmer L. Richers type care noted above.

As anyone familiar with rural

Kansas knows; a town begins to

past, can cite experiences simi- die when it loses its schools, its

back this year.

The answers to the above inquiries are "the usual;" "no;" and 'yes."

I suppose I better not leave it at that or I'll get a telephone call or plant's outside existence. two. Incidentally, before I forget it, my potatoes look great (or they did,

mometer and the crackly pops of

pyrotechnicians, my guess is that

time to celebrate our forefather's

signing of the Declaration of In-

-Honor Roll—

subscriptions: Ada Connett, St.

Francis; Patty Rogers, St. Francis;

Sweet Dreams, St. Francis; Mike

Antholz, St. Francis; Mrs. William

Black, Jonesboro, Ark., Calvin

Raile, St. Francis; Karla Dimitt,

Syracuse; Randy Raile, Goodland;

Dr. Pat Stuart, St. Francis;

New and renewed Herald

July Fourth is nearby.

My garden has had two mornings of sub-freezing temperatures since

**Casey's Comments** 

By the rising red of the ther- dependence on that fateful day in

for our nation.

brave, first patriots.

fireworks being set off by amateur live on for many more years.

Good Samaritan Village had opened during this time in World War II barracks buildings and she was cared for there for most of her remaining years.

I was the youngest of eight children and many of mother's grandchildren numbering 19 also were in or near Cheyenne Country. Had a facility not been available close at hand to care for her, family would not have been able to see her nor she them with the frequency needed for loved ones to provide for each other.

Many families, present and

**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.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church 785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams **Pastor Jerry Nowack** Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45

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

Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 **Pastor Chris Farmer** Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**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. **First Christian Church** Pastor Jeff Landers

332-2956 • 118 E. Webster

Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.

Church Service 10:15 a.m.

St. Francis

Equity

332-2928 Worship 9:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday of the month

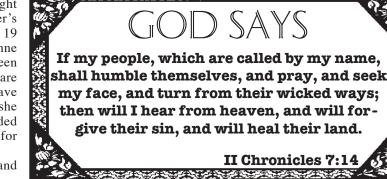
St. Francis Herald

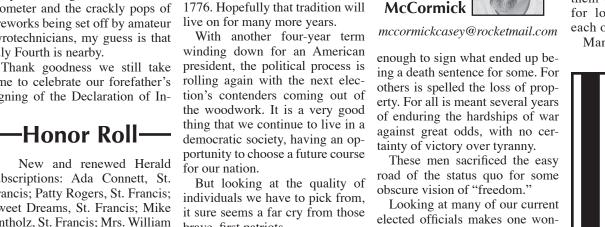
**First Baptist Church** 2nd & Scott • 332-3921 J.W. Glidewell, Pastor Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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. Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC 202 N. College Pastor Glenn Isernhagen, Interim

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Communion 3rd Sunday
Solid Rock
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What courage it took to put their names on that piece of paper. How many of us would be brave



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Bv Casey

der if their desires are as honorable. But at least we still have a voice in who we pick. Happy Independence Day!