



Conservation investing yields major dividends

By Jon Starns

As state and local budgets become tighter and elected officials are faced with tough decisions about what to fund and where cuts can potentially be taken without severely compromising the public welfare, the question of funding county conservation districts must necessarily be on the table. Do county dollars invested in conservation yield a return on investment?

The answer is yes. For every dollar a county appropriates for its conservation district, the typical fiscal return on investment is anywhere from 100 to several hundred percent. Last fiscal year in Finney County, for example, the amount budgeted for the conservation district was \$27,300, which generated federal and state cost-share dollars that equaled a 177-percent return on that investment.

A reduction in funding for conservation programs would not only result in reducing or eliminating dollars coming into county coffers, it could also return the state to some of its darkest days. On April 14, 1935, known in this part of the country as "Black Sunday," the Great Plains lost an estimated 300 million tons of topsoil due to the lack of conservation practices. How much dirt is that? Picture dirt piled th3-foot deep, wide enough to cover the width of an average two-lane highway, running all the way from Los Angeles to New York City, multiplied seven times. That's a lot of dirt. Enough, in fact, to convince President Franklin D. Roosevelt to write a letter to state governors encouraging them to create soil conservation districts to work with the Soil Conservation Service, which had just been established as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

For more than 74 years, Kansas conservation districts and producers have been working with each other and with our partners, the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), to better preserve the land on which we depend so much. As we've added programs and become more sophisticated with technology, Kansas counties have received millions of dollars through cost-share initiatives on the local, state, and federal levels. Not only have producers benefited through better yields, but the cost savings to our roads, bridges, rivers and streams have been significant. Wildlife habitats, too, derive major benefit from these programs. Whether you are a farmer, rancher, hunter, or just a nature enthusiast, we have all benefited enormously.

When budget hearings occur, attend and speak up. Make sure your county commissioners are aware how much money conservation districts generate in your county. In tight budget times, that revenue is more important than ever.

Kansas is viewed as a model state in conservation, and that's because for more than seven decades we have understood the value of strong conservation. We have considered it a priority. Let's all work to keep it that way.

Jon Starns is a member of the board of directors of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts and is the Northern Plains representative on the executive board of the National Association of Conservation Districts. He is a longtime farmer/rancher from Winona. For more information, contact Jon Starns at (785) 846-7692.



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

Pretty bad haboobs we're having these days.

In case you don't know what a haboob is, don't feel bad. I had to look it up on the Weather Channel website myself. They are the massive duststorms that have hit Phoenix, AZ lately.

A friend from the "Valley of the Sun" sent me an email with several incredible pictures of the gi-

gantic wall of sand bearing down on the city. I can't imagine what it had to have been like to experience that sort of power from Mother Nature.

I've heard stories of this region during the "Dirty 30s," and have tried to wrap my head around seeing a brown horizon advancing from the south. What could, or would, you have done? Makes a

little heatwave seem like nothing.

And now for the linguistics lesson. The word, haboob, comes from Sudan, a part of the Sahara Desert, and now gives us a better way of describing big duststorms.

President claims border is safe

To the Editor:

President Obama said our borders with Mexico have never been so safe and they have done all they can to secure them; short of building a mote with alligators in it.

People along the border live in fear and find little humor in this statement. Ranchers are shot, their land invaded, and their homes broken into.

Gov. Rick Perry of Texas says the border is a war zone, no one is safe. So many law officers have been killed no one wants the job.

The Texas Attorney General said it's not only illegal Mexicans coming into our country; it's a gateway for terrorists to come in from other countries.

The Obama administration refuses to secure Arizona's borders with Mexico. Arizona passed a law to help stop the flow of illegal aliens into their state; and faces a lawsuit against them from our federal government.

It's like our government doesn't care. They are more interested in granting amnesty to the illegals in our country. They want to give

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them all the rights of the American citizens.

Their plan is to create a block of voters for Obama in the 2012 election; also free health care. Gee, I wonder who is going to pay for that.

We have our military bases all over the world, but we can't put

enough boots on the ground to protect the borders of America.

Obama and his cronies are playing political games with the security of our borders and the safety of America.

Marilyn Fribbie McDonald

Long-term care is essential to the future

Letter to the Editor:

Long-term care is essential to the future of Cheyenne County. The availability of quality nursing home care was one of the reasons many of us chose to move to Cheyenne County when we retired. A long-term care facility benefits more than the older population. It is a major employer in the community, providing stability to the

economy. On Aug. 2, our "YES" vote on the resolution to "levy a tax not to exceed 6 mills for a home for the aged" will give the county commissioners the ability to take control of long-term care in the county. It will be a vote for the healthy future of Cheyenne County.

Janet Carman St. Francis

Community urged to go vote

Letter to the Editor:

Quotes from last week's Herald: 1) "voting for this proposal, said Kari Gilliland, county attorney, is a vote for having long term care in the county. The vote has nothing to do with ownership, or building on."

2) "A yes vote at the Aug. 2 election, Tom Keller said, is the first step in gaining control of long-term health care in the county" Whoa! Think about that---sounds like Obama-care, how is that working out for America?

3) It is not about ownership BUT--"The commissioners were not willing to sign a lease but, with a positive response from the public (meaning a yes vote), they would be able to negotiate as to whether or not the county would take ownership of the facility" Please take a

look back at quote number 1! This means three people will be able to do as they see fit and we, the taxpayers, are stuck for it.

Last item - I don't care to know how you vote - including commissioners - but get out and vote! Good Sam sure wants the profit from running the facility, but don't want any of the liabilities! If they don't want it then list it for sale! Just remember "The Sky it Ain't Falling! Mr. Lacy is more or less demanding 12 mills plus the -percent sales tax - I think maybe the taxpayers should be informed of about how much this 1 percent is and a monthly operating statement in *The Herald*, so we can be properly informed where our money is going. Don't want none of this pie in the sky stuff! We'll lose the hospital! Bull! Cut back and

schedule some expenditures later on after economy recovers!

Sorry one more. We want another employee to run the recycle building, only \$24,000. As old as I am, there is no way I could waste 40 hours a week doing that - must be some more relation that needs a job! Tax money - water and electric rates - was not meant to create jobs! By the way, thanks for the doggie and kitty litter boxes on the down town sidewalks!

Yes we need a rest home, but it doesn't have to be one with the county or Good Sam's name on it. I want to thank *The Herald* for printing views that are not spin and gives you, the reader, something to ponder before you vote on Aug. 2.

Larry Wilson St. Francis

The Saint Francis Herald

(USPS 475-960)

A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050



Nor'West Newspapers

8:30 a.m. - noon - 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

(785) 332-3162 Fax - (785) 332-3001

E-mail - sf.herald@nwkansan.com

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Lines from the Library

By Pat Leibbrandt

The following new books have arrived at the library: *Buried Prey* by John Sandford; *Southern Comfort* by Fern Michaels; *The Fifth Witness* by Michael Connelly; *Hope Rekindled* by Tracie Peter-

son; *Now You See Her* by James Patterson; *Escape* by Barbara Delinsky; *No Rest For The Dead* by David Baldacci; *The Silent Girl* by Tess Gerritsen; *Quicksilver* by Amanda Quick; *Wicked Lies* by Lisa Jackson; *Save Me* by Lisa Scottoline; *Smokin' Seventeen* by Janet Evanovich; *Watch Me Die* by Erica Spindler; *One Summer* by David Baldacci; *When Passion Rules* by Johanna Lindsey; *The Lincoln Lawyer*, book on CD by Michael Connelly; *Old Jules 50th Anniversary* by Mari Sandoz; *Roadside Kansas: A Traveler's Guide* by Rex Buchanan; *The Lore Of The Train* by Hamilton Ellis; *Pioneer Neighbors* by Roy Weber; *America The Beautiful*; *Indian Artifacts* by Virgil Russell; *Gusts Of Dust III* by Lucille Rossbach; *The Kansas Guidebook For*

Explorers By Marci Penner.

The library has the following new books in the children's department: *Scat, Cat!* By Alyssa Capucilli; *Mia And The Too Big Tutu* By Robin Farley; *Paddywack* By Stephanie Spinner; *Curious George: Rain or Shine* By H.A. Rey; *Biscuit's First Beach Day* By Alyssa Capucilli; *Biscuit And The Lost Teddy Bear* By Alyssa Capucilli; *Monster Trucks* By Susan Goodman; *Move Out* By Apple Jordan; *Batter Up, Spongebob* By David Lewman; *Olivia Cooks Up A Surprise* By Emily Sollinger; *Marley, Farm Dog* By Susan Long; *Cork And Fuzz: Short And Tall* By Dori Chaconas; *A Picnic Adventure* By Lisa Gallo; *We Love You, Strawberry Shortcake* By Sierra Harimann; *In A Pickle* By Natalie Shaw

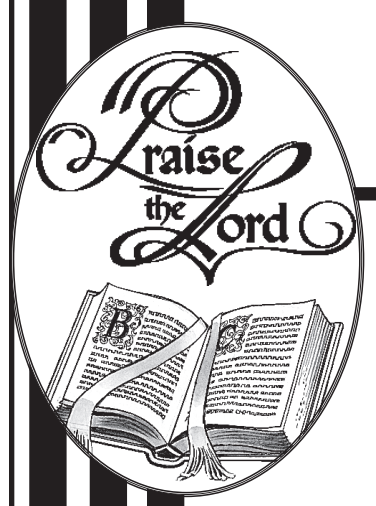
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GOD SAYS

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. I Peter 5:5-7

<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 8:00 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 Warren Cico 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 Morning Worship 10:30 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 Glenn Isernhagen, Interim 332-2928 Worship 9:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday of the month</p>



St. Francis Equity

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