



## Senate vote signals shift in support for subsidies

A Senate vote last month may signal an end to the so-called "direct payment" farm subsidies growers have depended on for many years.

While both Kansas senators voted against the amendment, it passed 84-15. The amendment would limit direct payments to farmers reporting less than \$1 million a year in adjusted gross income.

And while the immediate effect may be slight — the current limit is \$1.2 million, with exceptions, and the next farm bill won't be written until next year — the mood of the Senate seems pretty clear. These payments will be limited more to farmers who might really need them.

And down the road, as Congress struggles to fit the Farm Bill into the debt limit process, there's talk of eliminating direct payments altogether. House and Senate Ag Committee members of both parties have agreed to cut \$23 billion from the program over 10 years, nearly half the \$50 billion total.

The alternative may be even deeper cuts in the bill as the "supercommittee" formulates its plan to chop the federal budget. Republican Sen. Tom Coburn sponsored the amendment last month; opposition came mostly from Agriculture Committee members and other farm-state members, who pleaded for time to work out a budget agreement.

But the future seems pretty clear, and it probably won't include direct payments.

With farm states having less and less influence

in Congress, in fact, farmers may struggle to hang onto other programs they depend on more. These include crop insurance and disaster payments, including coverage for "uninsurable" crops.

In an era when the influence of rural America is fading and the farm vote means less to national politicians, farmers and farm groups need to step back and consider just what counts the most. Already, the so-called Farm Bill is mostly a welfare package, the result of deals made over the years to secure city support for rural issues.

Today, the bill covers everything from Food Stamps to the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program. But the time is coming, if it's not already here, when urban interests will figure out that they don't need to make deals to pass their programs. They have the votes; we don't.

The Senate, which remains more rural than the House, may be the last bastion of farm support, but ag groups will have to figure out what really counts. Direct payments, along with subsidies for alcohol fuel production, may be left on the chopping block.

Both have helped contribute to recent farm prosperity. And it's still vital to the country to have a dependable, low-cost food supply. But in the future, the "farm bloc" will have a lot fewer votes than we are used to.

Get used to it.

This Senate vote may be only a taste of things to come. — Steve Haynes



## Prairie dog law protects rights for private property owners

The Audubon Society is pressuring the State of Kansas to repeal the 1901 prairie dog statute that gives counties the power to treat prairie dog infestations without the consent of the landowner.

I feel strongly that this statute is needed and should NOT be repealed. The so called conservationists have incorrectly labeled this statute as one that weakens property rights when in fact the inverse is true.

This statute effectively ensures that should a neighbor decide to harbor prairie dogs it is in his best interest to ensure that they don't become a nuisance to others. This statute protects property rights and since the protection of property rights is one of the primary purposes of government, it is completely reasonable for this statute to remain on the books.

This prairie dog statute is much like the Constitutional basis for fire code laws. These laws protect your house from damage by ensuring that your neighbor's house is not built or maintained in such a way as to endanger yours.

We ranch and have prairie dogs on our land. For a time the prairie dogs became so bad in our part of the county that many ranchers'

## Letter to the Editor

livelihoods, including our own, were in jeopardy.

To address this, I spearheaded a local prairie dog control district to facilitate the control of prairie dogs in our little valley. The threat to landowners that the county had the power to control these animals — at the landowner's expense — was vital in bringing our problem under control. We now enjoy a much reduced prairie dog population.

From a wildlife management viewpoint, it is important to consider that we have a responsibility and a desire to manage our lands in a manner that is sustainable. Prairie dogs can become so numerous as to decimate grasslands, spark wind and water erosion and threaten the landowners ability to survive on the land.

These factors make it imperative that land owners have the necessary tools to effectively manage this threat to their operations sustainability. This statute is one of the important tools that responsible land and wildlife managers, such as myself, need in order to deal with the problems posed by prairie dogs.

If landowners cannot be assured that they can effectively manage their lands in a manner that is profitable and sustainable they will be forced to move. The only buyers for lands such as these are the so called conservationists.

These folks, from their city perch, feel good that the lands are no longer producing marketable meat but instead supporting prairie dogs. They assuage their guilt of the very real damage this causes to the local economy by clinging to the false pretense that tourism dollars will replace the lost production revenue.

John Locke, one of the great inspirational philosophers of our founders said, "The great chief end therefore, of Mens... putting themselves under government, is the preservation of their property."

I implore Governor Brownback to maintain the power needed to help landowners protect their property rights and thereby help suffering rural communities to protect their economic base.

Ken Klemm  
Goodland, Kansas

## Casey's Comments

By  
Casey  
McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

With Andy Rooney's passing so goes another chunk of America.

I hope you were a fan of his for he was one of the last pieces of quality on television these days. Rooney always had something to say about many different things. When his last segment was broadcast a few weeks ago, it notched the 1,097th closing opinion for "60 Minutes."

Perhaps it was his Irish roots, but he always reminded me of a grumpy uncle who showed up

at a family get-together. Something would be around that could bring a bit of humor from him.

One of his qualities was admitting when he was wrong. One particular instance was his opinion of the United States entering World War II.

As a pacifist, Rooney thought we should stay out. But when he became a reporter/writer for Stars and Stripes he saw the horrors of war first hand. Whether this happened flying on the second bomb-

ing raid over Germany, landing in Normandy a couple days after the first Americans set foot on French soil or entering the concentration camps after the Nazis were defeated, his view of the war was that it was just.

I hate seeing a man like Andy Rooney exit. He sure got it.

## Mental health disorders are top ten leading causes of disability

Every year over 57 million American deal with mental health disorders such as depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, alcohol abuse and obsessive compulsive disorder. Many of these disorders are the top ten leading causes of disability in the world today. For 47 years, High Plains Mental Health Center (HPMHC) has provided community based and outpatient mental health services. They also provide emergency assistance by phone 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. These services are funded by both the State of Kansas as well as our own county. As you may or may not know, HPMHC is mandated by law to serve all Kansans living or working in the 20 counties of Northwest whether or not they have the funds to pay for our services. We therefore are a "safety net" for many individuals in our communities. HPMHC served 44 county residents last year and many of those individuals did not have adequate or any insurance coverage.

High Plains Mental Health Center is also an employer as well as a

counseling facility. We employ approximately 150 staff members. These employees work in our communities and contribute to our local economy as well.

Due to budget and staff cuts, HPMHC is now facing its own crisis as over the last three years the State has cut 65% of grant funding that was designed to pay for people who were under or uninsured. Unfortunately, due to these cutbacks, the state is now extracting funds from the Medicaid Mental Health fund. They removed over \$7 million in 2011 and expect to extract \$17 million in 2012. These drastic cuts hurt Kansas residents who are in serious need of mental health services. Without these necessary services, these individuals will end up in emergency rooms, jail, or will become homeless. Ultimately, these last three outcomes are more expensive for all of us.

I would also like to point out that while medical costs continue to skyrocket, HPMHC have kept their fees reasonable. If an indi-

vidual would have to seek private psychiatric hospital care, inpatient state psychiatric care, or a youth residential treatment facility they would spend several hundreds of dollars each day. The average mental health services at HPMHC costs \$22 per day.

The point of this letter is to inform those of you in our community about the importance of community mental health centers and the wonderful treatment they provide. We are normally a "safety net" for our community but with the drastic budget cuts, our services are in great jeopardy. However, you can do something to help! Please contact your legislators in the Kansas House and Senate and let them know how important our facilities are to your community. You can find their contact information at www.kslegislature.org. Your opinion matters! Thank you for your support!

Sincerely, Carol Rogers,  
Cheyenne County HPMHC  
Governing Board of Directors

## Letter to the Editor

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Shirley Caswell, Laguna Niguel, Calif.; Gladys Cullum, St. Francis; Olathe Juhl, Goodland; Dick Bannister, Haigler; Bill Ehrman, St. Francis; Dorothy Rummel, Littleton, Colo.; Dwight Brewer, St. Francis; Karen Uplinger, Syracuse, N.Y.; Rick Lucas, St. Francis; Kyle Harvey, St. Francis; Karen Cooper, Aurora, Colo.;

**GOD SAYS**

Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descent after him.

Psalms 49:16, 17

**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@nwkansas.com

**STAFF**

Karen Krien ..... Editor/Publisher  
Nathan Fiala ..... Sports Editor  
Tim Burr ..... Advertising Manager  
Lezlie McCormick ..... Production

**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.

**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

**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.

**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.

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11 a.m.  
Communion 3rd Sunday

**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.

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

**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.

**Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC**  
202 N. College  
Pastor Randy Nelson  
Church 332-2928  
Parsonage 332-2312  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Communion 1st Sunday

**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**

**Saint Francis Herald**

**Knodel Funeral Home**  
202 S. Benton • St. Francis  
785-332-3131