



Opinion

Maintaining river flow sapped key reservoirs

While it hasn't affected drought-stricken Western Kansas as much, federal efforts to maintain the flow of the Missouri River for barge traffic have sapped water levels in key reservoirs, costing Kansas businesses millions in tourism and recreation income.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which run the flood control reservoirs in eastern Kansas – and some in the west as well – says it's powerless to stop the diversion. Congress requires the Corps to maintain enough flow on the Missouri to allow navigation as far as Sioux City, Iowa, the agency says, and it has no choice in the matter.

"We don't have the option to decide not to do it one year or other years because of drought," said a Corps official quoted by the Associated Press.

That may be true, but it's all the more reason for Missouri River states to band together to fight this waste of our water. The Corps said it's required by law to keep the river up through the "navigation season," from April 1 to December 1 – regardless of how that affects upstream reservoirs.

While the Missouri once was considered navigable well into Montana, today it's blocked by dams in South Dakota and northern Nebraska. (Though there are still a couple of draw bridges way up in Montana.)

The sandy, wandering Missouri was a tough river for old-time boat captains. The average lifespan of a riverboat was said to be only a cou-

ple of years. Then the corps narrowed and deepened the river, allowing navigation at the cost of millions – and much environmental damage.

The deeper, faster water still raises issues for wildlife and sport fishing today, and makes the river much more dangerous for recreation.

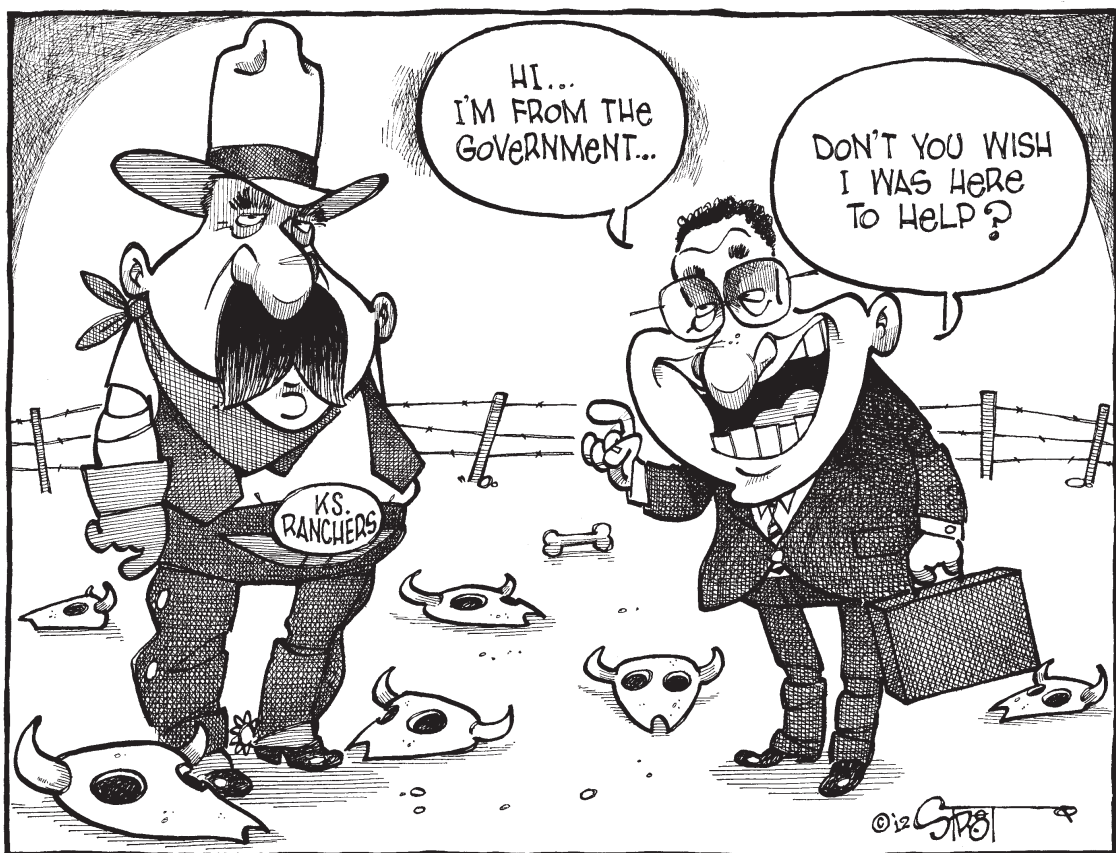
Barge traffic this year has been minimal. The AP reports that only about 200 barges reached Kansas City this year, compared to an estimated 40,000 that moved past St. Louis on the Mississippi. That's a 10th of what used the Missouri at the peak of barge traffic.

At the big eastern Kansas reservoirs – Tuttle Creek, Perry and Milford – the Corps has lowered lake levels three to six feet, leaving docks and boat ramps impaired or unusable. One new houseboat dock is said to have been damaged when it settled on rocks. Fishermen and others have trouble finding a place to put in.

All of this is costing Kansans money, and that's not fair to those who have invested in facilities at Kansas reservoirs or the towns that depend on this business. The effect on upstream states must be similar, all the way to Montana.

We know, in a dry year, lake levels are bound to fall. And those who built at Kansas lakes knew going in the Corps has a duty to keep the river up. But it's a question of overall economic good, and from here, it looks like we'd be better off to scuttle barge traffic and let the railroads handle the grain and coal a little farther east.

– Steve Haynes



Kansans can join the boots on the ground head to Colorado to help

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:

Caravan to Colorado!

Colorado is one of the most important battleground states in the country and it will have a huge impact in deciding the path our nation takes.

As Kansas Romney supporters, our neighbors to the west need us. You have the opportunity to join the boots on the ground and help Colorado lead Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan on a path to victory. We'll be joining Coloradans all day on Saturday, Oct. 13, as they knock on doors. We hope you will

join us for the final Saturday before Colorado ballots drop and early voting begins!

We will be meeting at 2160 Commerce Road in Goodland (Walmart parking lot off Goodland Exit 17) at 7 p.m. (Mountain Time).

There is a group leaving from southwestern Kansas as well.

Please be prompt, and dress comfortable for a day of pounding the pavement. Our friends in Colorado will be providing lunch.

Please contact local Romney Campaign representative Laurie Klemm if you plan to "Caravan to Colorado" for this event – Laurie@TheHomesteadRanch.com

Laurie Klemm also has Romney-Ryan yard signs available. You may stop by The Buffalo Guys office to pick up your free yard sign. Let's cover up Goodland showing our support for the Mitt Romney-Paul Ryan ticket.

Laurie Klemm
Goodland

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

It was a delicious taste of fall this weekend. Lezlie and I spent it changing furnace filters and digging out Halloween decorations. She even made a big pot of cabbage soup.

After plodding through day after day of 90 degree to triple digit days the last few months, the blast of weather came as a pleasant surprise.

Isn't it curious how we know how this works but still are caught off guard.

The year begins in the middle of winter. There will still be a couple

months of freezing nights and some icy days.

Then it will start to warm, days will get longer and green will begin to sprout up in lawns, ditches and fields. Life will return and with God's blessings we will have moisture to nourish our crops. However, some years will show periods of drought like this last summer.

If there are still green crops and grasses, these will begin to wither and dry after awhile. Nights will come sooner and cooler with the change and before we know it the

cycle begins again. So why is it our nature to get shocked when it comes suddenly or lasts too long?

Old farmers know this cycle better than any television meteorologist, although both rely on understanding the weather for a living. Luckily we have plenty of the overall wearing variety around to let us know that it's just another year of Kansas weather.

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



margeb@cityofstfrancis.net

The Skype program has been around for a long time, so when I got a new computer it was there for the upload and after a year I decided to try it. After all Kurt and I have family across the States so why not try it. Several people had talked about how they could see and talk to their grandchildren and of course that is what life is all

about to me.

I got the program put on and actually tried to read the directions, (Which is a step I can't seem to do) and then I wrote one of my daughter-in-laws that I thought might want to try it.

It certainly was a lot of fun. That is if you are people who like to try new things. I got on and I could see that she was trying. Soon there she was looking at me and we both started giggling. I asked if I looked like I had pixels all over and she said, yes, do I? I really hated to tell her she looked red, pink and blue but I just couldn't

stop laughing and then she was gone.

Once again we tried and we just kept getting shut down. I heard Darrin at one point say, "Oh that would sure be fun just to see each other laugh and then redial."

At the end of half an hour we both agreed we needed faster internet service. It just couldn't keep us connected.

So for now it will be Facebook and email and posting pictures for the family.

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GOD SAYS
And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.
Luke 12:15

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The Gardener

By Kay Melia



My original plan for today's epistle was to write, at length, about the average first frost dates in the individual areas in which these words are read. But as I write today, it is Friday, Oct. 5, exactly a week before one of the papers that so generously allows me to use their space, actually reaches their subscribers.

And so, I must be very careful not to pass along information on activities or events that have already taken place. Such oversight will cause readers to think I am some kind of dummy. I have long understood that that may be the case anyway, but now, I face a critical decision.

You see, the National Weather Service has issued a forecast for the next couple of days, Oct. 6 and 7, that if correct, will effectively put an end to the growing season in all areas of this column's circulation. Keep in mind that the papers that publish these ramblings will go to the printer AFTER the scary forecast for Oct. 6 and 7. Still, they must have this blog in their hands no later

than today, Oct. 5. Really, there is no serious problem here. If the National Weather Service says it is going to freeze Oct. 6 and 7, then it is certainly going to freeze on Oct. 6 and 7! I just hope they are also correct about a pretty good chance of some form of precipitation.

But really, fellow gardeners, we will no longer have to spend overtime hours worrying about those stupid tomatoes!! We've coddled them since late last April like they were some kind of special offspring, even through days and weeks of unrelenting heat and drought. We've sprayed, fertilized, watered, and weeded those things as if their survival was a matter of life or death.

And I would venture a guess that most tomato devotees have applied some kind of cover to protect those precious vines in an attempt to extend the season. Never mind that it will likely freeze again next week, and you'll do the cover up thing again.

I say "good riddance." And I will also say that I will be the first to shed a tear when I am forced to buy the hard, tasteless, over-priced stuff they call tomatoes at the supermarket.

Just so you will know, or may have forgotten, the average first frost according to Weather Library records is supposed to occur in Rawlins County about Sept. 29. That's the earliest in Kansas. The magic date in Thomas and Decatur counties is Oct. 2. In Cheyenne, Phillips, and Sherman counties, expect Oct. 6 to be the last day of the growing season. Well I do believe that is tomorrow, as I'm writing this.

If you will excuse me, I think I'll slip out and cover up a couple of my best looking tomato vines. When these words are read in Goodland, I will be exactly a week late. I think.

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.

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.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor James McCurdy
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos
1st Sunday of the month
Morning Mass 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

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

United Methodist Church
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.

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

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.stfcfamily.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 Randy Nelson
Church 332-2928
Parsonage 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday

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