



Who will stand up for 838 denied a vote?

Our valiant secretary of state makes all kinds of excuses, but the fact remains, 838 Kansans were turned away at the polls last month simply because they did not have a current photo ID – or forgot to bring it.

Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who invented the “need” for voters to have identification with the fiction of possible voter fraud, sighs and points out that is something like .07 of 1 percent of the total vote.

So, it’s no big deal, right? Unless you are one of the 838 people, whom we guess are mostly citizens who forgot their wallet or purse. No one has any evidence of anything else.

No one is claiming these were illegal aliens or other unqualified voters. The number represents far too small a percentage to indicate any kind of problem with fraud or improper voting.

That threat is something Mr. Kobach, who apparently has no conscience, invented so he would be elected. It was practically his entire platform. Yet, neither the secretary nor anyone else has shown that any problem exists.

Kobach is a prime example of what’s wrong with the Republican party today. His entire existence is founded on fear of illegal immigration, an issue that’s all but over. Pity the state if the Legislature ever gives him police powers.

And while the flow of immigrants has stopped, our country’s immigration system still needs to be fixed, Mr. Kobach has no proposals. He’s still fighting the problems of the last decade.

But the Republican party cannot move forward with a base grounded in fear, catering only to a

small and ever-shrinking xenophobic minority. 21st century America is different. The Republicans will have to face facts and display their principles to all Americans if the party is to survive.

Secretary Kobach, whom we’re sure believes he is doing the right thing, is not the guy to lead us into this new century. He’s about 100 years out of date.

Republican principles – smaller government, less spending, more freedom – mean as much as they always have. The party needs to reject leaders, like Mr. Kobach, who want more, and more intrusive, government, no matter their cause, and get back to basics.

Fear and uncertainty do not make a platform. Principles and answers to real needs do. And Republican principles appeal to all groups.

And those 838 Kansans who were refused their right to vote for no good or sufficient cause, other than not having a big-government ID card on their person?

Who will stand up for them – both the inconvenienced 306 who later showed up at the courthouse with their ID, and the 532 who didn’t bother? What about their right to vote?

We are headed fast to a Kobach-induced police state where people can be stopped on Kansas roads for no particular reason and subject to search, even arrest, because they have no “papers,” just like in the communist societies of the last century.

That is not America, and that is not freedom. Wake up, Kansas, before it’s too late.

– Steve Haynes



Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes



My mother always told me that it’s as easy to drive on the top of the gas tank as the bottom. She always stopped and filled her car when it got near the half-empty mark.

My husband is more of a, “It’s still half full and I’ve got better things to do than stand around a gas station, anyway,” kind of person.

I remember driving with my mother to Texas after Daddy died. We would go down in her car and I would fly back each fall. She had a routine and seldom varied from it. When she got older, Steve said that if I wanted to go with her, I’d do the driving. She’d get quite upset when the gauge went below half a tank and I didn’t stop to fill it up.

I thought she was just being silly.

Now, however, I realize, I

should have listened to my mother.

Twice within the last six months, I’ve been in danger of running out of gas while on a fairly long trip.

The first was in Colorado. We were going to fill up in Monte Vista after having lunch at one of our favorite Mexican restaurants, which is about two miles out on the highway. But after lunch, we remembered that they were working on the streets in town, so we just decided to go on to Alamosa, about 25 miles away.

The fancy gauge on the truck said we could drive 30 miles before we ran out of gas. We were golden.

That is when we learned two important lessons:

1. It’s a lot farther than 25 miles from the restaurant to Alamosa by the back roads than by the main

highway through town.

2. That gauge lies.

Watching the gauge numbers drop like a stone while checking the roadway markers for how far we had to go was nerve wracking, and I was driving.

We coasted for about two miles into town and rolled into the gas station on 0. I expected the engine to cough and die at any time, but we made it.

Then, a couple of weeks ago, we went to Lawrence, each in our own vehicle. I was to return to Oberlin in Steve’s truck with the dog while he went to an Associated Press meeting in Kansas City with my car.

I got to Topeka and realized that he hadn’t filled up the truck when I filled my car in Emporia. I started looking for a gas station but, by that time I was pretty much through town and headed west toward Junction City. No way I could get there with the gas I had.

I called him. Where is there a gas station out here? He wasn’t sure. There might be one at the little towns off Interstate 70, but going to one of those would use up all the gas I had, and I wasn’t sure I could make it back to Topeka. I finally just turned around and drove the 15 miles back to town, getting to the station with about 2 miles left on the gauge.

Well, that blew half an hour, but I was good to go. I got back to my turning point and two miles down the road was a big truck stop. Who would have known?

Next time, maybe I’ll remember to listen to my mother.

Casey’s Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Maybe I should write it off to the English degree I don’t use, but I love language and the power behind it. If a person has command of words their ability to describe concepts, motivate others and explain the world around them has no limits.

Merriam Webster’s on-line dictionary put out their list of the 10 most-looked-up words of 2012. The list has something to say about us and where we are as a society.

The list is really 11 words as the first listed are “socialism” and “capitalism.” These are followed by “touche,” the French word meaning to either score a point in fencing or

argument.

The next two couple interesting together: “bigot” and “marriage.” Apparently, today, if you are not riding the progressive wave of allowing marriage between members of the same sex, then you can be labeled as a closed-minded bigot.

The other words most looked up are “democracy,” “professionalism,” “globalization.” Joe Biden inspired “malarkey,” “schadenfreude” and “meme.”

The last two I had to look up myself.

Schadenfreude, from the German that combines “damage” and “joy.” The word is used to describe finding

enjoyment at the misfortune of another. I suppose that is why we have reruns of AFV.

“Meme,” which rhymes with beam, describes an idea, style or usage that spreads from person to person in a culture. In the spirit of the season, “Santa Claus is a meme most kids are thinking about this time of year.”

So as Christmas approaches, may your heart not be filled with schadenfreude toward your fellow man. And that’s no malarkey!

Coordinators do good job collecting items for Soldiers

Letter to the Editor:

We were absolutely blown away by the amount of things and money you were able to collect through the Support Our Soldiers project. You are truly amazing communities, said Karen Stark, Oklahoma City, who is in charge of the program and picked up the items from the county. We truly appreciate everything you do and have done to make life better for those in harms way.

We were busy packing 5,000 boxes to be shipped shortly. Your gifts are appreciated and needed and we feel so blessed by our friendship with you kind folks that continue to support this very worthwhile cause, she added.

We, here in Cheyenne County,



Letters to the Editor

want to add our personal thanks and appreciation for those of you who gave so generously. We hope and pray we will continue this worthwhile cause as long as we have men and women who are willing to lay their lives on the line to protect us from our enemies.

May you be blest knowing that you gave to make life a little better for those who received one of the Christmas gifts. God bless our troops and all of you who shared a gift with them.

Hulda Dorsch and Christi Wurm
Project coordinators

GOD SAYS
He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.
Proverbs 13:20

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