

## Congratulations senate on the filibuster reform

We'd like to congratulate the U.S. Senate on getting bipartisan support for reforming the filibuster.

A filibuster is a political obstruction tactic in which a piece of legislation can be blocked by a senator or series of senators speaking continuously on any topic they choose. They keep the floor as long as they hold the floor, and no other business can be conducted as long as they do. Only a two-thirds majority vote can put it to an end. For many years, neither party has held enough of a majority to end a filibuster on its own.

The filibuster actually dates back to ancient Rome, where it was used to obstruct Julius Caesar, though perhaps that is a more positive example, as Caesar's imperial ambitions needed obstructing.

In the Senate, it is more often used as a threat so legislation that the minority doesn't support will never come to the floor.

Last week, Democrats and Republicans came together and approved new language for Senate rules that will, if passed, avoid filibusters. The Democrats pushed for broader reforms, such as changing the two-thirds majority rule to a simple 51 out of 100 majority. Republicans argued that as the minority party, the filibuster was the

only thing granting them leverage. What came out of the leadership's negotiations was a compromise.

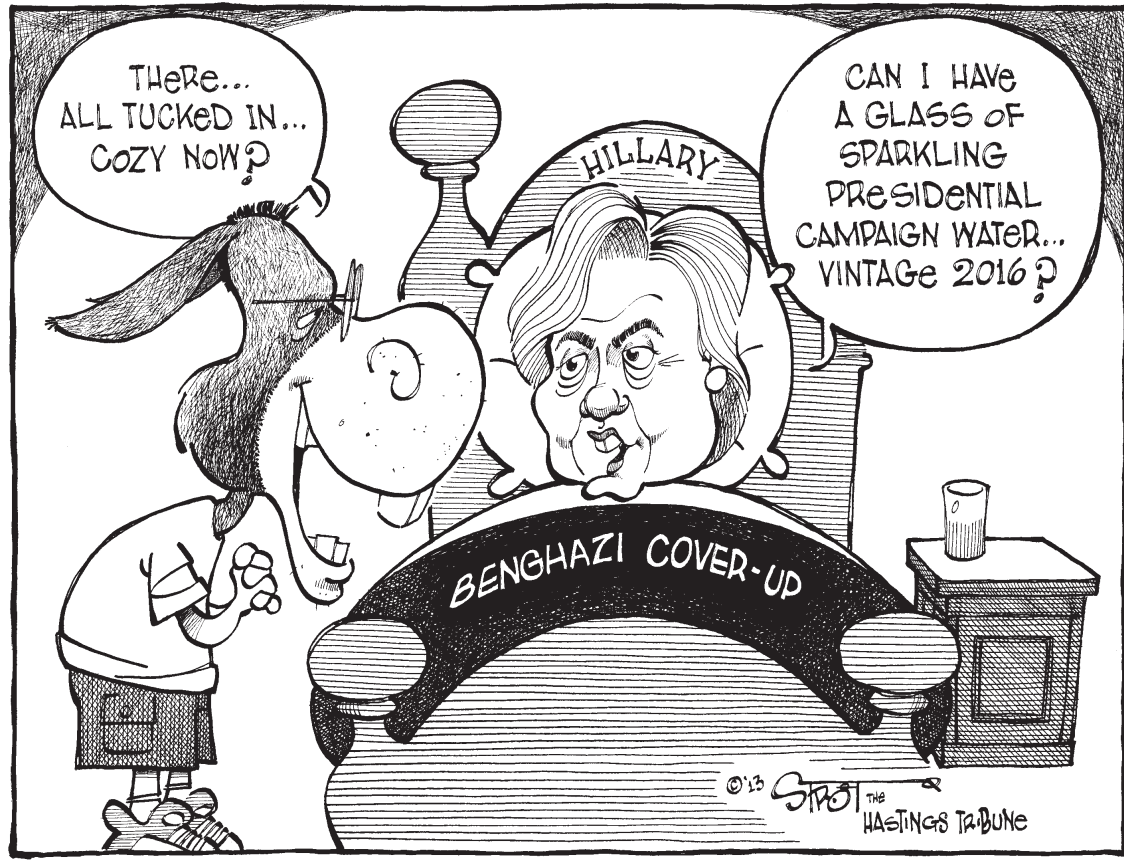
The measure includes shortening the time delay for cloture motions to be filed. Another provision says that if amendments offered aren't relevant to the legislation at hand, that majority vote isn't required to end a filibuster. It also limits debate on some presidential nominations.

This kind of bipartisan compromise is an encouraging sign from a government that has been mired in obstructionism for decades. On Monday there was more encouraging news, that a bipartisan group in the Senate got together and created a framework for how they want to handle immigration reform for the coming year.

Not every senator is happy with these deals, of course. But isn't that the definition of a compromise, when no one goes home entirely happy, but something still gets accomplished?

Politicians always talk about ending the political gridlock in Washington. Perhaps this is finally a step in the right direction. Perhaps our leaders have finally got the message. Divided government is good, unless the important work goes by the wayside while the two sides fight. We can only hope they will keep up the good work.

-Kevin Bottrell



## Reader points out obvious contradictions in editorial

Letter to the Editor: To Steve Haynes, editorial; and Congressman Tim Huelskamp

I read with interest Steve's editorial about our elected Representative Tim Huelskamp. I wholeheartedly endorse and respect a man of principle and conviction even if I don't agree with his politics.

However, I must point out some glaring and very obvious contradictions in Steve Haynes assessment of Tim's actual representation of the First District in Congress.

He has voted to restrict women from accessing legally entitled health care 33 times in the last session and voted against the fair play act and violence against women act. Principled? Perhaps but neither sensitive nor empathic to these issues. And, he demands less government intrusion into our lives.... Really? It smacks of outright hypocrisy to me.

He has railed against the Affordable Care Act and yet accepts the most generous health care plan in the country for he and his family.

He trumpets his outrage at government spending on entitlement programs while at the same time he and his family enjoy farm subsidies and the usual government help like school lunch programs for his children. Principled? Perhaps but a bit disingenuous to my way of thinking.

We taxpayers pay him nearly \$1,400 a day to work 125 days a year and he spends nearly as much time on ultra conservative talk radio and television promoting his own ideology and himself. Principled? Perhaps but the 'grandstanding' needs to stop. He was removed from his committee

## Letter to the Editor

assignments because he was not contributing in a meaningful way on the issues. Most likely because the issues did not include benefits for his largest campaign contributors...KOCH Industries.

The reality of gerrymandered politics in the state of Kansas virtually allows Tim to hold his legislative seat, unchallenged, for at least the next two years if not 10... Kansas does not have representative politics...increasingly it is totally dominated by ultra conservative Republicans and for that we get new dimensions for the house-keeping closet at women's health clinics and a limit to four cats per household in the state...No wonder Kansas is more often the laughing stock in the country.

I am a full-throated supporter

of two-party politics and enjoy the give and take of political discourse but Tim Huelskamp represents about 2 percent of public opinion with his absolutist ideology and with an 8-percent approval rating...neither of which advances the overall interest of the First District. This country moves forward when there is a recognition that working together and accommodation is necessary for allowing democracy to work.

And, finally, we had an election and President Obama won. My Republican friends need to acknowledge that and work for all our interests.

Thank you  
Ron Ewing,  
St. Francis

## Photo Policy

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or new happening that we should attend, please call 332-3162.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can be there. Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event. Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engage-

ment pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

Laser prints of photos which have run in The Herald or Times are available, first come, first served. Special-order laser prints of photos will be available at \$3 each.

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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We are good at putting limits on people. It's so easy to take one look at someone and fit them nicely into our personal collection of classifications files.

Edythe Kirchmaier recently took the California driving exam near her home in Santa Barbara. She said it was "a piece of cake."

She should know plenty about driving since she has been doing it for 85 years and has yet to receive a ticket or be in a wreck.

Edythe was born in Dayton,

Ohio, but moved with her husband to Chicago. It was there, during graduate school, that she began her driving experience in a Ford Model A Coupe.

Back then she recalls that there were no traffic signs or speed limits.

My mother's mother, Coral McIntyre, was from Edythe's generation but she never bothered to learn to drive. That's because she had her husband, Howard, to take her places. But when Grandpa

passed, Grandma was too busy to stay in one place. So in her early 70s she got her driver's license.

I guess my point is, you never can tell with some people. Oh, and by the way, Edythe just turned 105 and her license is good through 2017.

Keep on truckin' Edythe!

## Hangin' With Marge

Molly My Dog

By Margaret Bucholtz



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Most of you know all about my little Molly. We have had her for three years now and enjoy her very much.

She was a rescue dog and was 10 years old when she came to live with us. Now she is 13 and you can see age taken its toll, but still she is as faithful as ever. She was never hyper nor did she bark, she just laid and watched over Kurt and me.

When we got her she weighed about 10 pounds and although she had a sway back she had the brightest big brown eyes that just said, "I love you."

This past year she started gain-

ing weight and the little patient dog was fine in the morning, but the evenings were horrible. She would eat everything she could put her mouth on, licking her bowl, the kitchen floor and needing to go outside about 15 times an evening. Little did we think about the fact that she went outside just so she could get a treat when she came in.

Her stomach kept getting, not only big but red to boot. She began to look like a pot-belly pig. She would drink water constantly and begged for food all through the evening. The only time she wasn't begging was in the mornings and when she was eating. She now weighs 22 pounds.

When the time came for her another haircut I told Kurt to ask the vet about her. It just wasn't

normal but I really think Kurt just thought maybe she was also acting a lot like me. In fact, it is true that the dog and the owners get to looking alike.

When Kurt got her home that day he said that she had Cushing's syndrome. It has something to do with the pituitary gland. I looked it up on the computer. The symptoms are weight gain, moon face, excess sweating, pot belly, depression and anxiety. All of this was just what was going on. There was not one symptom that she didn't have.

It just makes me wonder if I need to go to the doctor. I don't have the moon face but then older women get that dangle thing going so it would be hard to tell if I have a moon face.

## Honor Roll

Eugene Bier, Rudolph, Wisc.; Sharon Hendricks, Bird City; Woodline Farms, Ludell; Pam Bolin, St. Francis; Virginia Gal- loway, Denver Colo.; Eunice Townsend, Goodland; Deloris Zuege, Haigler Neb.; Alan Archer, Mc Donald; Jacquelyn Lutz, Benkelman; Keith Zwegardt, St. Francis; Martha Pettibone, Kanarado; Darla Walz, St. Francis; Paula Crabtree, St. Francis; David Stephens, St. Francis; Gaylen Weeden, Kanarado; Harold Mad- sen, St. Francis; Marlin Burr, St. Francis; Stanley Hilt, Emporia

**GOD SAYS**

**If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.**

**II Chronicles 7:14**

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

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos  
1st Sunday of the month  
Morning Mass 8:30 am  
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 10:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Morning Worship 10:30 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**  
423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor James McCurdy  
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  
Church Service 10 a.m.

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