



Author, reports chide Kansas for its principles

We've seen a wave of articles chastising Kansans for taking federal money while voting for politicians, like our Rep. Tim Huelskamp, who rail against federal spending.

This goes back to the book "What's the Matter With Kansas," by Thomas Frank, who argued that Kansans hew to the conservative social outlook of the Republican party while they benefit from the liberal-left spending of the Democrats.

In effect, he says, we vote against our own economic interests. We've abandoned the populist notions of a century ago - regulation of robber barons, bans on corporate farming, strict limits on banking - for social issues such as abortion and, yes, big government.

"Not long ago," Mr. Frank writes, "Kansas would have responded to the current situation by making the bastards pay. This would have been a political certainty, as predictable as what happens when you touch a match to a puddle of gasoline...."

"Not these days. Out here, the gravity of discontent pulls in only one direction: to the right, to the right, further to the right. Strip today's Kansans of their job security, and they head out to become registered Republicans. Push them off their land, and next thing you know they're protesting in front of abortion clinics."

He's right, of course.

An article in *The Kansas City Star* last week shows that in one rural Kansas county, at least, federal spending exceeds the federal taxes people pay by at least 2-1, yet that county and dozens of others continue to vote for Mr. Huelskamp.

Liberal editorial writers at Kansas newspapers expound on the fact that we are all "takers"

even as we opposed federal spending in principle. The hypocrisy of it!

Guilty as charged, I suppose.

It's true, rural people, and not just in Kansas, tend to vote their conscience rather than their pocketbook. People who don't believe in abortion vote for candidates who don't believe in abortion. Those who think big government dangerous and expensive tend to vote for candidates who push for smaller government.

And if their hometown or county takes in more than it sends out to the federal government, well, they probably haven't ever added it up, but they'd probably vote for the same guy for Congress as they did last year. Because the principle would still be more important to them than the money.

There is a certain amount of hypocrisy involved here, yes. People tend to see the federal benefits they get as "earned" or "deserved," while those going to others seem like "waste." Candidates who want to get elected cater to those tastes and try to balance the good and the bad.

Federal farm payments may be wasteful, for instance, and they may not work too well in preserving the "family farm" - just look at our plunging population curve in spite of all those billions spent - but the entire economy out here is built on them. How would we get disentangled?

And Social Security? We all paid into that.

We suppose it's old-fashioned for people to vote their principles rather than their pocketbooks, but that's what we are: old-fashioned.

Some would say that's not such a bad thing.

- Steve Haynes



Visitor enjoys entertainment during walk, run, rock cure

Letter to the Editor

What an exciting and entertaining Saturday I spent in St. Francis on April 27 for the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) Benefit. Thank you to Joe Caldart and all of the dozens of people who planned and worked so hard to make that event become a reality. It was so important and amazing to experience.

My mother, Bonnie Cram, and I began with the Fun 2K Walk from the St. Francis high school to the fairgrounds at 9 in the morning. We crossed paths with some of the 8.9K runners from the Shortest State Highway Run from Wheeler. Everyone participating was having a great time whether they were walking, running or volunteering.

Once we reached the fairgrounds we observed a great deal of preparation and anticipation beginning for the eventful day ahead. Food vendors were setting up, craft booths,

products and information tables were being arranged, and the outdoor stage was becoming a reality.

We were amazed at the large performing stage designed and built with volunteer help. Everyone was working together and at 1 p.m. the "Star Spangle Banner" was beautifully sung and the entertainment began.

Jason Padgett was right at home as master of ceremonies and Randy Smestad was on the spot for the professional sound. All we had to do was sit back, relax, and enjoy six well-prepared groups of varied musical styles. We enjoyed them all, in fact, we couldn't believe we were in St. Francis when the last group, Blu Simon, appeared complete with their own sound system, lighting,

and wireless instruments. All the musicians had volunteered their talents for this worthy cause.

Several people who suffered from Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy spoke about the pain and challenges they faced. They were very grateful to Joe for his passion and determination to find a cure through support and donations for more needed research.

Hats off to all of the volunteers, workers, and musicians who made the Benefit for Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy become a reality for all of us to support and enjoy. It was truly an amazing event in St. Francis!

Ione Slattery
Hays

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Looking at how other people around the world view us, it's no wonder we get the tag of "ugly Americans" sometimes.

It would be nice if only the ordinary people, like you and me, were allowed out. But, unfortunately, our celebrities are able to run amuck anywhere and everywhere.

Do you suppose foreigners see our teenagers as all being like Miley Cyrus or Justin Bieber? It was

more than just a little embarrassing to hear of how, when visiting the site where Anne Frank's family hid from the Nazis, Justin left a note. If Miss Frank were alive today she would certainly be one of his fans, basically put. Don't suppose it dawned on him that when she was trying to survive there were more important things than pop music.

Even better, with international tensions strained between the

West and North Korea, who pays a good will visit but former NBA'er Dennis Rodman? Really?

It's no wonder people look at some of us with disdain. It's hard enough to take serious our own famous people.

Could we find a way to keep them here?

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 engagement 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.

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GOD SAYS

And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

Genesis 28:15

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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
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Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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 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
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Morning Worship 10:45

Solid Rock Baptist Church
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Pastor Allen Coon
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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
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Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday

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