

## Secret information leak shows abuse of power

The secret seizure of Associated Press phone records by the Justice Department investigating an alleged leak of top-secret information represents a dangerous abuse of government power.

In effect, the AP has been put on notice that if it persists in reporting stories the administration doesn't like, the government can destroy its credibility and scare off its sources.

The results could be a near end to investigative reporting in Washington, where almost everything the government does is secret, especially the bad stuff.

Who, after all, is going to call an AP reporter and give him or her background information on a story — any story — when the feds might be listening?

Tips from second-level sources are the way most Washington stories come out because only the top guys in any agency are "authorized" to speak to the press. And they only recite the administration line.

This is not about politics. Administrations of both parties have been guilty of abusing the Constitution. Remember Dick Nixon and his enemies list? The whole Watergate coverup?

But the Obama administration has been deep into repression of the press. Despite the fact that the president himself last week renewed his support of a reporters' shield law which could have prevented this fiasco, his administration still defends the subpoena used to get AP reporters' phone records.

This act has a particularly chilling effect on news gathering because just the thought that the FBI might be listening will keep a lot of mid-level bureaucrats from blowing the whistle on their bosses. And that's how the public finds out about a lot of government misbehavior.

Worst yet, the fear will dry up calls to other re-

porters. Who knows how many phones might be tapped in Washington, how many offices might be bugged?

It's not just that, or course. This is the same administration that allowed the Internal Revenue Service to hold up tax-exempt status for tea party-related groups that otherwise qualified just because they were conservative.

It's an administration, and a Justice Department, grounded in the Chicago-style tactics its leader learned at the knee of the Dailey family, who helped him get where he is and shared in federal appointments, influence and other spoils after his election.

There's nothing special about this bunch. No dreamers, no Camelot. Just politics, not as usual, but the worst kind.

Tracing the calls on hundreds of phone lines, checking on everyone a reporter might have talked with in a slew of AP offices, the government showed it can flex its muscle at will.

This intrusion surely underlines the need for a strong federal shield law, one that will protect reporters' sources, allow courts to ferret out true danger to national security and keep government goons at bay.

It's not that the Obama gang is the enemy. They're just playing the game, even though they should know better. A growing and powerful security apparatus that wants ever tighter control over every aspect of American life is to blame. Politicians in both parties play the game.

We all need laws to defend us, and reporters in particular, because we depend on them to tell us what our government is up to. We need them to be free and unfettered in that quest. — Steve Haynes

## The Gardener

By Kay Melia



Strangely enough, the KLOE Home and Garden Show took place in Goodland. Our staff at KLOE originated the show back in the early 80s, staging it at the Elks Club. When the show grew too large for that fine facility, we moved it to the Max Jones Field House, and it was a "full house" there for more than 20 years.

In the later years, the Extension Service organized afternoon discussion groups for the show, conducted by Master Gardeners who discussed various and sundry garden topics of the day. One year I led the discussion about "Growing Your Own Baked Beans," which played to a nearly empty room that day. Since you weren't there to hear the presentation, I decided to try to gar-

ner your attention here in the paper 10 years later, because I think it's something all gardeners should be aware of, or not.

Obviously, when we're talking about baked beans, we're talking about the cooking treatment we give to the many varieties and types of the bean seed, which results in a staple food that is prepared in different ways all around the world. For many years, farmers and gardeners have known about the powerhouse of nutrition contained in the seed of the bean, not to mention the soluble fiber abundance, as well as being virtually fat free with no cholesterol. Most importantly, beans just plain taste good, prepared in so many ways.

Unfortunately, very few gardeners grow their own dry beans. Sure, most of us plant a row or two of green beans. But we just don't mess around with dry beans. What a shame!

Growing dry beans is much easier than raising green beans, because you don't have to pick them until the plants reach full maturity and the filled bean pods begin to dry out before the first freeze in late October. Then, you simply pick the dry pods, shell them, and store them for winter use

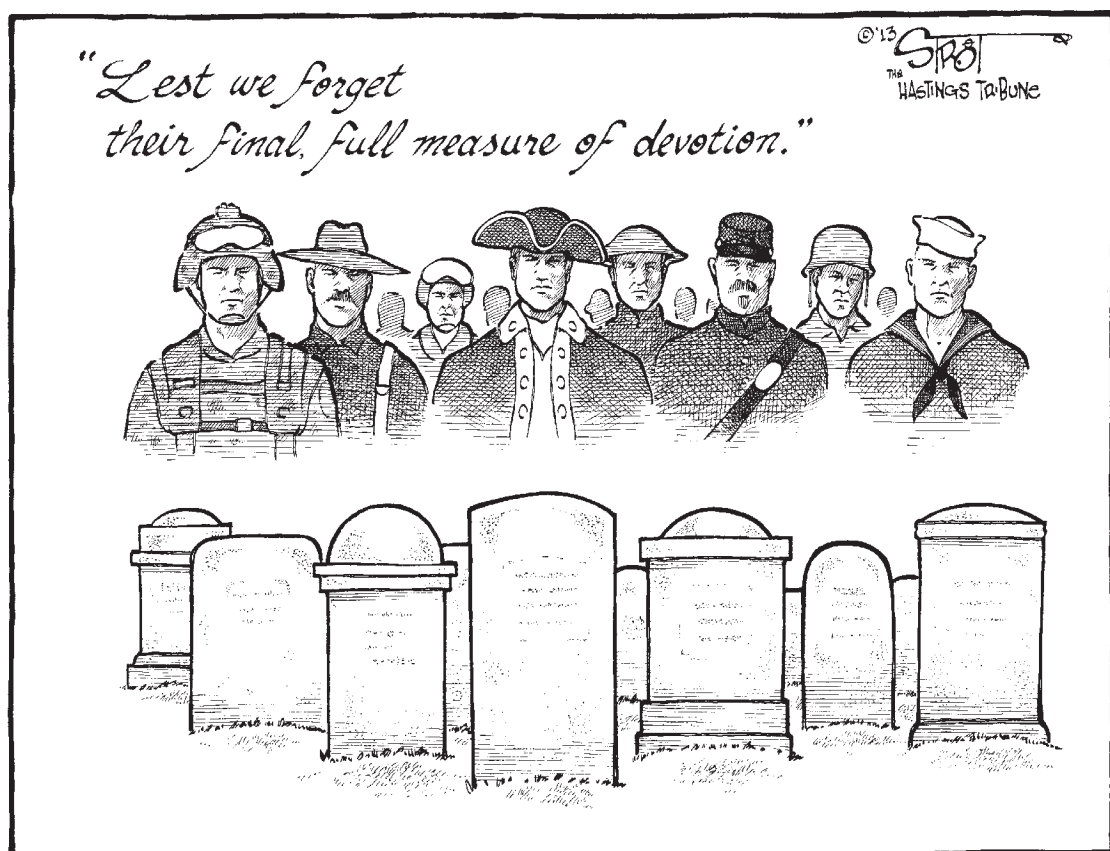
Normally, when most good cooks go to the store to buy a pound or two of dry beans, they buy Pintos or Great Northerns because they are grown here and we are most familiar with them. Good choice! But there are others that backyard gardeners should try, not only for their cooking qualities, but because of the sheer beauty of the seed. We absolute should grow the Anasazi, also known as Jacob's Cattle Bean. They are simply beautiful in hand, and the taste is wonderful. There are those who firmly believe that the very best baked beans are made with the Vermont Cranberry Bean. Other winners, each with their own presentation, include the Black Turtle Bean, the Appaloosa, the Yin Yang, the Calypso. Perhaps the most unique is the Soldier Bean. Every white bean contains the perfect outline of a dark maroon soldier on the eye of the bean!

There are dozens more varieties, all heirlooms, all containing their own designs and consistencies. Baked beans, ham and beans, bean soup, etc., all taste better when prepared with the beans from your own garden. So what else is new?

**GOD SAYS**

**Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**

**John 14:1-2**



## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



As I sat on our front porch Memorial Day morning, listening to the bird's chorus and watching the American flag waft in a soft breeze, I had a thought.

There were two brothers from Akron, Ohio. Jack and Kelly Thacker were pretty typical boys for that day. Growing up in a mid-western town that would soon be thrown into action producing everything from tank tracks, rubber tires for jeeps and trucks, to deicers for plane wings.

For a storm was coming, similar to others our nation had endured. But this storm would cover most of the world and draw untold multitudes of young men like the

Thacker brothers to fight.

As I said they were like most others in the 1940s. They played high school sports, liked to drive the family car when allowed and dance with girls to the music of Benny Goodman and the Dorsey Brothers.

So when the call came for these boys to put their private lives aside and become citizen soldiers they did. Jack turned into an airman in the Army Air Force and Kelly joined up with the Marines. Both were sent to the Pacific Theater to fight the Japanese. Each endured difficulties that those of us who were not there will never truly understand.

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But here is where they parted ways. Jack flew his missions, came home and lived out his days in Ohio. Kelly's life ended on a sandy and sticky island named Guam.

I take many things for granted. I've lived my life with the ability to come and go as I wish. I can voice my opinions without thought of reprimand. I can keep guns in my house if I choose. I don't think twice about these things, thanks to the Thacker brothers and other veterans who paid for these rights for us.

## Community comes together to accomplish good things

Letter to the Editor:

It is really great to see how different organizations in a small community are able to come together and accomplish good things.

At point are the programs honoring our veterans on Memorial Day. The beautiful program presented at the St. Francis Cemetery is a prime example.

The flags furling in the breeze are a result of the Cheyenne County Cruisers, a local car and motorcycle club; contributions to the community, through funds raised and community donations. They have purchased new flags, installed and/or repaired flag poles, ropes, etc.

Car club members, VFW members and the city of St. Francis came together and installed the flag pole at the quarter deck and directory area.

The St. Francis Lions Club was invited to join the VFW in

## Letter to the Editor

the ceremony for Memorial Day. They put together a beautiful program.

To all the participants in the program — What an outstanding job!

There were other programs

conducted throughout the county such as the Cheyenne Valley Cemetery and Hope Valley Cemetery honoring our veterans. What a community!

Ron Hill  
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 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.

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Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 9 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.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.

**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  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Communion 3rd Sunday

**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.

**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.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.

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

