



Governor was right to veto bill on raffles

While we're sympathetic with the goal of a bill that attempted to legalize charity raffles in Kansas, we agree with Gov. Sam Brownback, who vetoed the bill as unconstitutional.

The Kansas Constitution is quite specific on this issue, at Article 15, Section 3, which says: "Lotteries and the sale of lottery tickets are forever prohibited."

A lottery is defined in law as any game or scheme which includes three elements: chance, a reward and a consideration, or price. That certainly includes selling tickets at \$1 each or six for \$5 to raise money for a little girl with cancer or a church that needs money for a new air conditioner.

Section 3 does include three exceptions approved by voters in recent decades, for licensed horse and dog tracks, and now casinos; for charitable Bingo games as regulated by law; and for the state lottery, a big-time moneymaker for the state.

We all know that churches, civic and fraternal groups, lodges and clubs, and just plain people, have been holding drawings and other lotteries for years to raise money for good causes. It's been going on a long time, probably longer than it's been prohibited by the Kansas Constitution.

At the newspaper, we know this, because we have to turn down dozens of ads each year from well-meaning charitable organizations trying to

raise money for — you guessed it — a good cause.

However, it's against the law to promote an illegal lottery. It's also against federal postal regulations. We just can't take those ads, though we maintain under the First Amendment we can and do write news stories about these drawings. (Our one rule is that in return, we required the group holding the drawing to report its income from an event.)

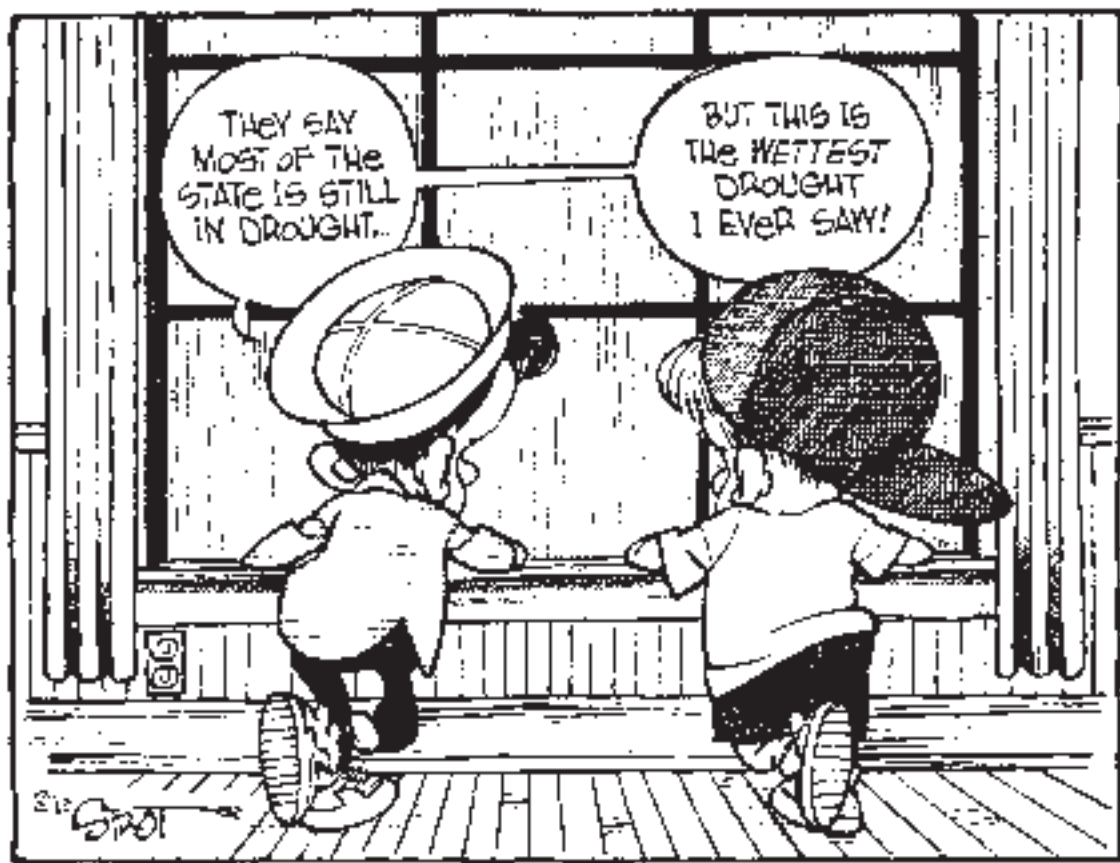
We see no harm in making charitable lotteries legal in Kansas, but agree that the Legislature needs to do this right by passing a constitutional amendment for voters to decide. We think they'd go along.

While we know of no Kansas county where authorities have prosecuted a church or veterans' post for holding an illegal lottery, we question the wisdom of having a law that makes criminals out of well-intentioned people.

So it'll be up to the 2014 Legislature to do this over, do it well and get the issue on the ballot for the next election. Clubs and fraternal groups that have been breaking the law for decades can wait another year or two to come out into the sunshine.

With all the legal gambling going on in this state, in fact, it's a wonder that no one ever thought of covering this gap before now.

— Steve Haynes



It's time for St. Francis to shine during 125th celebration

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It's time! The celebration for St. Francis' 125th birthday is next week, June 14-16.

This is our time to shine! We will have many alumni and out of town guests that may not know what a fantastic community we hold within our grips. Many of the activities being planned for this festive weekend are due in part to your neighbors and fellow businessman. We encourage any of the businesses, with a store front or without, to participate in this event. Please open your doors and show those who are visiting and even those who live here what we have! Those of you without store fronts, please come downtown and set up a booth. Show off! Yes, you read that correctly, I want you to SHOW OFF! Be Proud!

If you would like to be a vendor or have a booth, please come downtown Friday and/or Saturday of the event and find a place to set up. We want sidewalk sales, bake sales, and fun booths of any and all types. Be courteous and don't block others and be sure to

ask if you are setting up in front of another business. We are all in this together and want a fun filled weekend. So, support your fellow man and help your neighbor.

We have been busy preparing a fun filled weekend with activities for everyone who wants to participate. While work behind the scenes has been going on for months, it is now time for the brunt of the work to begin. While many volunteers have already stepped up to the plate to help we will always welcome more eager helpers!

We will be having a free will barbecue Friday evening from 6-8. We will have a few tables and chairs but we would suggest you bring lawn chairs and pop up tents if you have them. There will be a street dance and beer garden both Friday and Saturday nights. The beer garden is a first for the city (at least since I can remember) and so we don't want to "mess" this up. Please be courteous,

respectful, and appreciative of this opportunity. We are asking all of you to help us patrol this event and make sure that it is held with the utmost respect so that maybe we can do it again another time.

Please take time to check out our website, www.celebratestfrancis.com, and our many flyers around the community for a list of events. You can also like us on facebook. Our page is Celebrate St. Francis.

This event has taken a lot of elbow grease and a lot of funds. We thank all of you that have contributed in so many ways! We are still accepting donations to keep up with this expense. If there are any proceeds remaining after the event is over, we will retain a portion for future events and the rest will be put into an account for a new city swimming pool.

Thank you all for your support and we hope to see you at the celebration

Kary Jo Meyer
St. Francis

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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At harvest time we watch countless vehicles loaded with wheat kernels headed to a grain elevator. Ever wonder where those tiny seeds end up?

Surprisingly, about a third of each field, by national estimates, goes to a country outside the United States. According to 2010 figures, \$115 billion worth of American agricultural productions were exported.

This helps to explain one of the best kept secrets in ag circles: the

International Grains Program at Kansas State University.

Offering training from once the grain is harvested to being used as a food source, the program attracts students from every corner of the globe.

Each year 500 to 550 individuals travel to learn how we grade grain, safely store it, use it for oil and even how to mill it. These skills are then taken to the other lands to help produce better crops or utilize their imports

more efficiently.

When a student arrives, the International Grains Program staff has their home flag flying in the Manhattan breeze. At this point over 70 flags are in use.

That's quite a testament to the success of this little known Kansas program.

Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy



120th State Representative

"We are still in session."

For those constituents who are following this legislative session, you are aware that we should have been done three weeks ago. There have been no General Orders or bills "above the line" since we returned for veto session on May 8. I have driven my 380 miles back and forth three times, and each time I hoped it would be the last trip for some time.

The tax plan and budget are tied together, and the House and Senate cannot find common ground. The House is split dramatically on the sales tax expiring July 1.

We have representatives who will only vote for a plan that takes the sales tax from 6.3 to 5.7 and others who will only vote for a plan that retains the 6.3. I personally

feel that with the tax plan that was passed last year (which I did not vote for), we should split the difference and see if we have the growth necessary to take it all the way back the following year.

The budget is a different matter. We have to have the revenue to run the state, and the only way we can make things work is with more cuts.

This is an example of how difficult this process is: in my district, we have a tech college and a community college. They are extremely important to the economy of Northwest Kansas.

I have been fighting to keep their funding. In a neighboring district, there are cuts being made to the Kansas prisons. Of course, their representative is fighting for

his district.

There are 125 representatives and 40 senators all doing the same thing. How do we maintain fiscal responsibility and still provide services?

Another example: I have had many calls about the Department of Revenue and the way they are handling this year's tax returns. Their staff has been reduced and their workload increased. Less government — less service.

We have been here too long — and hopefully compromise is near. With the grace of God, my next article will be about how this all turns out.

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.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Beverly Kite, Benkelman, Neb.; Shirley Sloper, Cape Coral, Fla.; Rod Lampe, St. Francis; Marilyn Taylor, Lubbock, Texas; CW Antholz, McDonald; Alma Zimbelman, Westminster, Colo.; Clarence Roberson, St. Francis; Cheyenne County Hospital, St. Francis; Roger Zwegardt, St. Francis;

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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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 9:30 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.

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
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday

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

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

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