



Splitting farm bill in two may make passage hard

You have to hope the House Republicans know what they are doing, splitting the Farm Bill into separate agriculture and welfare legislation.

Farmers have gotten by for years with a sort of unholy alliance of Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, who came together every few years to pass a farm bill. This year, in the era of polarity, that system has broken down. In years past, liberals on both sides of the aisle could vote for the farm bill because it contained authorization for Food Stamps, nutrition programs, school lunches and other "agriculture-related" assistance. Conservatives and farm-state legislators - often the same people - got what they wanted for farmers.

And if anyone objected to the "wasteful" spending on the other part of the bill, the deal implied by the big-tent farm bill kept them quiet.

This has been important for farmers, because their numbers and influence have been declining. They still rank among the stronger business lobbying forces because the Farm Bureau and other groups have them well organized. Farmers show up on Capitol Hill in numbers a farm-state senator or representative can't ignore. And nearly every state has its farm vote.

The numbers keep shifting in favor of the cities, however. Even in Kansas, each census brings news that there are fewer of us in rural areas and more of them in cities and suburbs.

And while a strong farm sector is in most

everyone's best interest, a lot of people don't know that. Most Americans today have never seen where their food comes from and really don't have much idea who grows it. They think bread comes from Sarah Lee and steak from Omaha, hamburger from McDonalds and cotton from Walmart.

Perhaps splitting the farm bill will allow all the programs to be judged on their own merits. The conservative House Republicans will certainly want to chop heck out of the every-burgeoning food-stamp program.

But many city liberals have their sights on farm subsidies. They will be waiting in the Senate, where the Democrats are in charge and the rules are different.

In the end, the two houses will have to compromise both bills, and perhaps the grand alliance can be put back together.

Farmers can hope and work for some kind of deal that keeps the most important programs going, particularly crop insurance and emergency relief. Liberals will vote for "environmental" parts of the bill, but programs like direct payments will be on the line for elimination or limitations.

And increasingly, farm groups may have to choose the parts of bill they need most.

This may not be what we want to see, but it looks like the future. Here's hoping the House strategy helps - and not hurts.

- Steve Haynes



The Gardener

By Kay Melia



Ask just about anyone why they began planting a garden in their backyard and you'll probably get a blank stare. Either that, or they'll tell you "it's because I like fresh tomatoes." That, of course, is reason enough.

There are approximately 50 million gardeners in the United States today. The average age of an American gardener is 50. That may surprise you because most people figure only old blokes like me go outside and play in the dirt. Fifty years ago, that was basically true, but not anymore.

Young people are finding their way out the back door and into the backyard in increasing numbers these days. And it's not only because they're hankering for a fresh tomato. They're beginning to understand that homegrown fresh garden delicacies are paramount in their family's everyday diet. They also understand that working up a little perspiration can actually be satisfying, knowing that they are accomplishing something good

for the family.

It set me to thinking the other day. (Really!) How great would it be if "every" family planted, tended and harvested the bounty of their own backyard garden? Probably not going to happen. And why is that? It's because the majority of the nation's young, school age people have never been exposed to the joys of gardening by their parents and are not really aware of how to get started when they get out on their own. I think I have the answer to this problem.

Let's introduce a course in school pertaining to gardening. I propose that Gardening 101 be a semester-long course, and be required study for all sophomore or junior students in high school for both boys and girls. It should be scheduled in the second semester when spring begins and students can get outside and get hands-on training as well as in the classroom/high school students would be allowed to take the course either their sophomore or junior year.

Doctor makes decision to stay in county after disagreement

Letter to the Editor:

The hospital and I had a disagreement over a recent management decision concerning the clinic. During this last month, I had some serious concerns about whether I would be able to remain in practice here. I have been here for 14 years and I had never thought about leaving before.

Administration and I have agreed to disagree and policies/

—Letters to the Editor—

procedures are being addressed. As a result I am going to remain in practice here. The people of this county have been so supportive of me as well as the clinic and hospital. I did not think it right to leave such a trust. I also feel this county will be getting two excellent physicians with the recruitment of Dr. Megan

Brown and Dr. Dallas Walz. I did not want to leave them in a lurch prior to their completion of residency.

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Miller, MD
St. Francis

Editor's note: This letter has been republished with proper corrections.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



You won't find many around these parts who will complain about rain. It's like the country tune that claims, "Rain is a good thing!"

So as the Bucholtz-Ross-Lampe-Hilt-Marin-McCormick families and friends gathered at

Lake Waconda for our annual ballet of communal living, we took the weekend down pours in stride.

It is pretty easy to do with all the modern conveniences of camping. I recall as a kid camping in the Rocky Mountains it was not so. We considered ourselves lucky to have a down-filled sleeping bag that ideally stayed dry for awhile.

Today folks have well-equipped recreational vehicles with heating and air conditioning. Food is kept nicely chilled in refrigerators. Fire can be made on a stove top.

Teenagers and young adults

are still in touch with the outside world and they constantly use their hand-held devices to communicate. The adults can catch the weekend sporting events on television with mobile satellite receptors.

The only temporary inconvenience comes when the ice that chills the liquid refreshments needs to be replaced.

Camping certainly isn't what it used to be. Even with the rain.

GOD SAYS

For the prophecies came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

— II Peter 1:21



The Saint Francis Herald

(USPS 475-960)

A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050



Nor'West Newspapers

8:30 a.m.-noon - 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

(785) 332-3162 Fax - (785) 332-3001

E-mail - sf.herald@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Karen Krien Editor/Publisher
Tim Burr Advertising Manager
Doug Sloper Office Manager
Margaret Bucholtz Columnist

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.



Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
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 am
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

St. Francis
Equity

Saint Francis
Herald

Knodel
Funeral Home
202 S. Benton • St. Francis
785-332-3131

