

Group won't tell where tax payers money is spent

The arrogance of the group which keeps suing to force Kansas to spend more and more money on schools apparently knows no bounds.

The group, which calls itself Schools for Fair Funding, has been suing the state for seven years. The case finally ended last week when the state Supreme Court said the Legislature had put enough money into schools to comply with its orders.

The court invited the schools to sue again, though, and the group's lead lawyer, Alan Rupe, is making noises about another case.

The group got nearly all its money from 18 school districts, which in turn got it from the state they are suing. In effect, the state had to pay for both sides of the lawsuit against it.

When Kansas newspapers asked, though, Mr. Rupe refused to say how he spent more than \$2 million in tax money.

The Topeka Capital-Journal asked for an accounting, claiming the group falls under the state Open Records Act since its all tax money.

Mr. Rupe offered to list where the money came from, but refused to say how it had been spent.

At least one Kansas editor, Tom Bell writing in the Salina Journal, commented that made him wonder just what they had spent the money on. Why wouldn't they want taxpayers to know? What do the school lawyers have to hide?

"I think they're playing hide-and-seek with the money," said Mike Merriam, a Topeka First

Amendment lawyer who filed the suit for the Capital-Journal. "What the ... public needs to know is how the school districts are spending money through this corporation."

It's bad enough that school districts spend taxpayer dollars to try to get more money — legislators have been grumbling about their heavy spending on lobbying for years — but the constant, expensive lawsuits are an insult to those of us who have to pay for them.

Voters essentially have no say in this process — the schools and the judges have taken school finance decisions out of our hands and put them in the courts, where those who pay the bills have little influence.

We're entitled to an accounting of how our money is being spent by this group and by the school districts that contributed to the suit.

Are the lawyers spending it on fancy dinners and greens fees? Trips out of state? Private ventures? No one knows.

Taxpayer money should never be spent in secret. It must always be accounted for in the open.

And the dubious nature of this effort to squeeze more money out of the state through constant lawsuits only makes the matter worse.

Shame on you, Mr. Rupe. Shame.

What are you hiding?

Tell the taxpayers what you did with their money, and do it now.

— Steve Haynes

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



Recently we went to Branson, Mo., for a 50th wedding anniversary. What a wonderful celebration!

While we were there a couple of men came over to me and said "I know who you are." I am sure I was standing there with that deer in the headlight look when he added, "I see your picture in the paper each week."

As we talked I remembered a story about my grandparents and his, so I told him about it.

Back in the 20s everyone was going through the Depression and items like gum was certainly not a necessity. Because my great-grandfather lived with them he had

been to town and came home with a package of gum to treat the grandchildren. Each of them got one stick that they divided into half and started chewing it.

This was the same day as Mr. Crawford and his son Ralph came to repair the well. Grandma Mace had cooked a meal to feed the hired men and she was setting it on the table as the girls took their place at the table. Each of them took the gum out of their mouth and dropped it into their glass of water to save it for when they were done eating.

My aunt missed her glass and the gum fell into the gravy bowl. The

girls were so worried and didn't know what to do about it, so they decided to leave it where it was and said nothing to their mother.

The meal began and each of the girls watched to see who got the gum. Sure enough Mr. Crawford took a bite of his mashed potatoes and gravy and he got a funny look on his face but just kept chewing.

He never said a word about it, but the girls knew who had gotten the gum, and Grandma never found out about it.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



I love a parade!

I've seen some big ones in some big towns. But I don't think I've ever enjoyed one as much as the Cheyenne County Fair Parade last Saturday.

Granted, there were no giant helium filled Barney's or Garfield's and numerous uniformed marching bands. But there were many floats,

music and animals.

The theme was "There is no Place Like Home." Ever since I moved to Kansas I've been looking for Dorothy and her pals. Well, I certainly got my fix.

There were young ones and some that looked a lot like Judy Garland's character. The Scarecrows, Tin men and Lions were very convinc-

ing.

But the best were probably the witches. I saw one very scary Wicked Witch. But by far, the most entertaining person was Glenda, the good witch, on the St. Francis First National Bank float.

Other fun sights were the Hilltop General Store-Hometown Market float that actually brought back the Darlin's band from Andy Griffith fame.

It was great fun and spectators had plenty to enjoy. It just goes to show, you don't have to be in a big town to find quality entertainment.

Faulkender, Oakley; Darin Stang, McCook, Neb.; Rev. Chris Farmer, St. Francis; McCook Gazette, McCook, Neb.; Eldon Palmer, Goodland; Jerry Whitmore, St. Francis.

GOD SAYS
This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24

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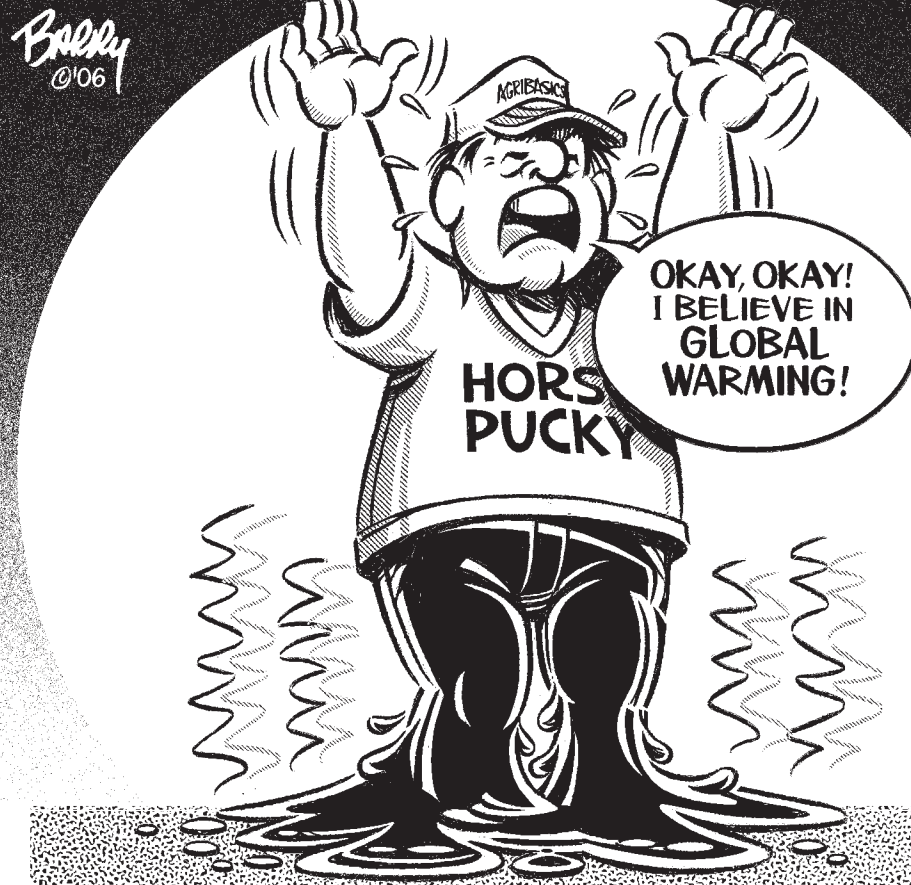


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RECORD TEMPERATURES CONVERT A NAYSAYER ...

News From the Past

5 years ago - 2001

Cheyenne County has received a \$55,000 grant for recycling.

At the Public Style Revue held Monday night, Angela Knodel was the grand champion in the Clothing Construction, senior division. Katora Sherlock was reserve champion. In the junior division Andrea Knodel was the champion and Katelyn Jones the reserve champion.

Steven's Kansas Territorial had the overall grand champion

float in the Cheyenne County Fair Parade. Twenty-one people made up the float using the theme "From our past...To our future...With Freedom...Let the good times roll."

John Dobson has shared a generous gift of \$10,000 to benefit the county through the Hospice Services.

Mae Mossburgh, 103-year-old Cheyenne County resident, was the grand marshal of the Cheyenne County Parade.

The 2001 Antique Engine and Thresher Queen is Meta Melita Bader Dankenbring of Bird City.

Paul Rainbolt is the new administrator of the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis. He takes the place of Mike Fleming who retired at the end of July.

20 years ago - 1986 Aug

At the Fashion Revue held Monday evening, Leslie O'Brien was named champion of the Constructed Garments in the senior category and Robbie O'Brien was champion in the Constructed Garments in the junior category.

Help victims by not moving them

To the editor,

I have been an emergency medical technician (EMT) three years now and a registered nurse (RN) for 12 years and I did not realize how critical it is for a trauma victim to be properly packaged before loading into an ambulance until I became an emergency medical technician. The possibility of life threatening injuries is tremendously increased

Letter to the Editor

without this critical step of proper packaging and caring for a trauma patient. I know everyone wants to help when they come upon a scene, but if you have not had the many hours of emergency medical service training then the best thing you can do is:

- Call 911
- Stay calm
- Do not move the victim
- Keep the victim warm

Thank you for trusting me to do my job!

Nancy J. Semler RN
Cheyenne County EMT B

Lines From the Library

By Pat Leibbrandt

The following new books have arrived at the library: *Vanished* by Karen Robard; *The Island* by Heather Graham; *Killer Dreams* by Iris Johansen; *Copy Cat* by Erica Spindler; *No Sweat Exercise Plan* by Harvey Simon; *The Wrong Hostage* by Elizabeth Lowell; *Twelve Sharp* by Janet Evanovich; *Captive Of My Desire* by Johanna Lindsey; *Blue Screen* by Robert Parker; *Leave A Candle Burning* by Lori

Wick; *Sandcastles* by Luanne Rice; *Cover Of Night* by Linda Howard; *Coming Out* by Danielle Steel; *Sailing To Capri* by Elizabeth Adler; *Angels Fall* by Nora Roberts; *Summer Of The Midnight Sun* by Tracie Peterson; *In The Dark Of The Night* by John Saul; *Under The Northern Lights* by Tracie Peterson; and *Family First* by Phil McGraw.

The library also has the following new books in the children's department: *A Big-A-Boo Day Play* by

David Kirk; *Happy Heartwood Day* by David Kirk; *Berenstain Bears New Pup* by Stan Berenstain; *Berenstain Bears Clean House* by Stan Berenstain; *How Many Kisses Do You Want Tonight* by Varsha Bajaj; *Duck & Goose* by Tad Hill; *Horse Heros* by Kate Petty; *The Spick And Span Fairy* by Sally Hewitt; *Where's My Shirt* by Sally Hewitt; *Bouncing With The Birdie* by Celia Warren; and *A Royal Valentine* by Wendy Wax.

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
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
No Sunday School
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Christian Church
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Pastor Tony Christians
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

Grace Assembly of God
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899
208 E. 2nd
Rev. Rob Meyer
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jim Martin
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship following
Pastor Ken Hart
Clough Valley Church of Hope
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF
Pastor Jason Howard
332-3152
Saturdays 8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT

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