

Kansas needs to make decisions about water

Kansas needs to make a lot of decisions about water, and not all of them involve issues in the state's control.

Kansas farmers pump more water out of the Ogallala aquifer underlying the western plains than nature puts back, drawing wells down each year. Eventually, there won't be enough water to grow irrigated corn out here.

The big question is, should we slow down now, and make the water last? Or wait until we have to?

Water in western Kansas river basins, including the Republican River drainage in our northwest corner, isn't adequate to cover current uses, especially irrigation wells in the so-called streambed aquifers. (These are separate from the Ogallala.)

The state isn't giving out new well permits, but our use is more than interstate compacts allow. Nebraska farmers below us do the same.

Kansas is suing Nebraska in the U.S. Supreme Court to get its fair share of water from the river. Where does that leave northwest Kansas farmers?

There is water in most of our federal reservoirs, but less every year during the turn-of-the-century drought. All of the lakes out here in the northwest have fallen during the current drought.

Already, irrigation is losing out at these lakes, designed more than a half century ago as "multiple use" facilities. Recreation, cities, storage and industrial use seem to win out.

Back in eastern Kansas, though, the reservoirs are being sucked down to perpetuate the folly of

barge navigation on the Missouri River. Relentless releases designed to bring the river up just a few inches draw down lakes which have become vital to the Kansas economy.

Over the years, the Army Corps of Engineers has deepened, narrowed and straightened the river channel to help move barges. In dry times, that's not enough, though, and the Corps calls on Kansas water.

Who benefits? Barge operators, mostly. Grain and other commodities moved on the river could be moved by taxpaying railroads and existing highways rather than using federal dollars to dredge and straighten the river.

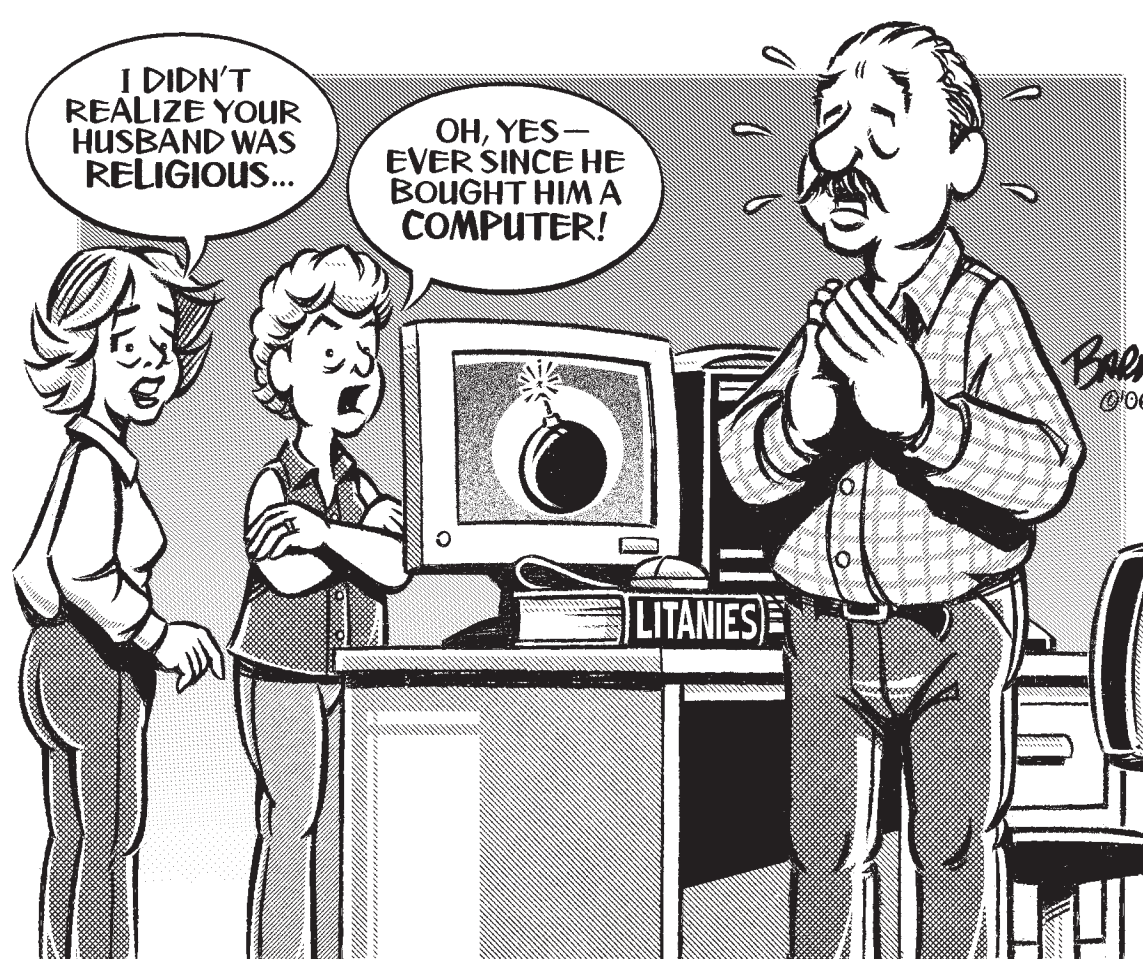
The deep, fast flow barge operators threatens fish and other river life, with little benefit to anyone in this state.

We're not alone in this. Nebraska and Dakota economies depend on federal reservoirs, too. Many people up there want their lakes left at levels that promote recreation. Drawdowns to promote barge traffic can leave boat ramps and marinas high and dry, driving off boaters and fishermen.

All across the plains, farmers face the same decisions about wells and irrigation. There's not enough water anywhere.

The right thing to do is to maximize the resource, which means using water well and wisely. Knowing what that means isn't always easy, but one thing is for sure:

In the future, we'll all have to do more with less. — Steve Haynes



News From the Past

100 years ago - 1906

Will Zuege ordered an \$800.50 bill of lumber which he intends to convert into a house.

A Mr. Turner for someplace has taken a homestead on Sand Creek.

Deroy Danielson and Co. are advertising the "Malleable Range." The ladies are invited to have a hot biscuit and fragrant coffee while inspecting the exhibit and witnessing the demonstration. Also for every purchase of the "Malleable Range", The Deroy Danielson Co. will get absolutely free this week only a \$7.50 set of cooking utensils.

Western Kansas is a paradise in the autumn.

Prof. C.F. Mueller, the new principal of the Cheyenne County High School, arrived last week from Frederick.

The Methodist Church is undergoing extensive repairs inside and outside and will be in first class condition before the advent of cold weather.

At a meeting of the school board it was decided to postpone the opening of school until Monday, Oct. 1.

50 years ago - 1956

Deroy Danielson and Co. have decided to expand their business by putting in a branch store in Idalia.

The high school enrollment is up 17 students. The largest freshman class in many years is given as the reason. There are 68 freshmen beginning high school this year.

The Plum Creek 4-H Club walked off with first place in the judging contest at the Cheyenne County Fair. High individual in the overall judging was Ben Leibbrandt of the Plum Creek Club.

Among the 4-H'ers headed to the Kansas State Fair are Sue Hinz, Ben Leibbrandt, Ruth Zwegardt, Charlene Murphy, Sue Hendricks, Ronald Curry, Roger Douthit, Janice Mueller, Kay Chapman, Leanna Long, Karen Anderson, Merle Mills and Judy Leach.

There are eight letter winners reporting for football practice. They are Danny Lampe, Rogers Myers, Melvin Zwegardt, Keith Schlepp, Frank Lockard, Wendell Werner, Lynn O'Leary and Gordon Orth. Robert Menardi is the coach.

Forest Howard, owner/manager of Howard's Town and

Country Store is announcing that he is holding a grand opening of the new establishment.

The Saint Francis Herald was notified it was among the winners of the Kansas Better Newspaper Contest held in connection with the Kansas State Fair. The Herald was named first place winner of the Presswork, typography and makeup in its division.

40 years ago - 1966

The Unified School District 297 got underway on Monday with 13 school buses. There are 365 students enrolled in the grade school, 135 in the junior high and 245 in the high school for a total of 745. Seventh and eighth grade this year have moved to the new junior high which is in the remodeled gymnasium in the high school. Mr. Sperry has taken over and the superintendent for the entire district, the high school principal in Mr. Don Hall, who was assistant principal last year, and the grade school principal in Velma Zimbelman. There is just one rural school operating in the district and that is at Wheeler.

Hangin' With Marge

Games

By Margaret Bucholtz



This year Kurt and I decided that the fairest way to handle the grandchildren's games was to just attend the home games. Since we have one in football, one in volleyball and one in junior high, we just couldn't keep up with our work and kids.

It was the day of the first football game and Kurt came home at noon and said, "Maybe we should go to the football game, since Oberlin isn't too far away." Now I had been waiting all week to hear these words because he loves football.

We left about 5:30 and started out. It was one of those days that I had a slight headache and was very dizzy however I didn't think the ride would hurt anything.

On the road down Kurt was talking a mile a minute, which is unusual, but I knew he was happy. We pulled up and there was a parking spot right close to the entrance and he said, "Look I can park right here and it won't be far for you to walk." As he put the car in park he jumped out talking about how he would get the seats and jackets out of the trunk and on and on.

I open my door, or we shall say I tried to open my door and it hit the sloping grass that was there. This gave me about six inches to try and get out. There was water running down the curb but I thought as excited as he was, and also we will add

as hard of hearing that he is, I might as well figure this out on my own. I put my right foot in the water and then tried to stand up. Didn't work, so I got my left foot over there and tried to stand up, but that wasn't working out to well either. A dizzy spell hit and I fell back into the car seat.

Finally I am trying again when he was halfway across the road and he stopped and said, "Are you having trouble getting out?" I wanted to say, here's your sign, but about that time I made it up and out.

We headed across the road and I told him, "Kurt slow down, I am dizzy." He stopped for a second and I caught up.

Inside the football stadium I ran into my daughter and her husband. She told me I didn't look too good and I told her I didn't feel too hot. Her husband told her to go on and

he would stay with me until she got back.

About then the "Star Spangle Banner" started to place so I placed my hand on my heart. All of a sudden I realized that my heart wasn't beating very fast, and then I looked at my son-in-law and realized that I had placed the wrong hand over my chest. Quickly I changed hands but as I did I sort of wobbled a little and Casey reached up and steadied me. I really was kind of embarrassed.

My daughter returned and we were walking across to the stands when I met a friend. He said, "Maggie, they let you out tonight!" Before I could answer my daughter said, "It is only an evening pass and then we will return her."

What ever happened to respect for mother?

Reader suggests cleaning of ones back stoop first

Letter to the editor,

To whom it may concern, To the person who sent me the nice little letter.

It was so nice of you to clear my life up. I guess I missed out on all those things.

I wished you would have had the courage to sign your letter, so I

- Letter to the Editor -

could send you a proper thank you. Leave us alone. Clean your own back stoop. I'll bet your's isn't any better; more than likely it's worse.

Dorothy Hankins St. Francis

GOD SAYS
Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.
Psalms 149:3

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Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



How can one kill in the name of their god?

Last week, Pope Benedict XVI offended Muslim worldwide by quoting a 14th century Byzantine emperor. The pope used the words to describe the Prophet Mohammed and his tactics "such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached."

The first victim of Muslim retaliation was the shooting of an Italian nun in Somalia.

The pope's intent was to bring peace between different religious groups. Some where, out there, there must be many worshippers of Islam that don't feel compelled to kill infidels to earn passage to the next world.

But all that is shown on television, news print and the internet are images of Pope Benedict replicas being burned in effigy and reports of doom to him and followers of the cross.

I admire the pontiff for saying what he did. How else will change come?

I don't think the pope is requiring Muslims to convert to Christianity or else. But surely some middle ground can be found for different people to coexist on an ever shrinking planet Earth.

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
 Sunday School 10 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11 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
 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 Mike Larson
 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
 Pastor Ken Hart
 332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

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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