



Member 2020

The Coffey County
Republican

Published by
Faimon Publications, LLC
324 Hudson, P.O. Box A,
Burlington, KS 66839-0218
(ISSN 145-700)

Published Thursdays.
Periodicals postage paid at
Burlington, Kansas. Phone
(620) 364-5325; Fax (620)
364-2607.

Postmaster: Send change of
address forms to P.O. Box A,
Burlington, KS 66839-0218.

Official newspaper for
Coffey County, the cities of
Burlington, New Strawn,
LeRoy, Gridley, Lebo,
Hartford and Waverly;
Lebo-Waverly USD 243,
Burlington USD 244,
LeRoy-Gridley USD 245.

Member of the Kansas
Press Association, National
Federation of Independent
Businesses, Coffey County
Chamber of Commerce.

STAFF

Publishers

Chris and Catherine Faimon

Managing Editor
Mark Petterson

Sports Reporter
Katie McMurray

Reporter
Ida Wilson

Advertising Consultant
Open

Ad Design
Bradley Rice

Circulation Mgr./Classifieds
Denise Sibley
Kae Austin

Distribution
John Knachel
Brenda Futrell

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Subscriptions must be paid
in advance. Rates include
applicable taxes.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:

Mail Delivery: Coffey
County, Westphalia and
Hartford, \$36/1 year;

Elsewhere in Kansas,
\$39/1 year;
Outside Kansas (in U.S.),
\$50/1 year.

Online subscription,
\$30/1 year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Coffey County Republican encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to:
Coffey County Republican,
Drawer A,
Burlington, KS 66839;

or by email to
ccrepub@gmail.com

• We do not publish
anonymous letters.

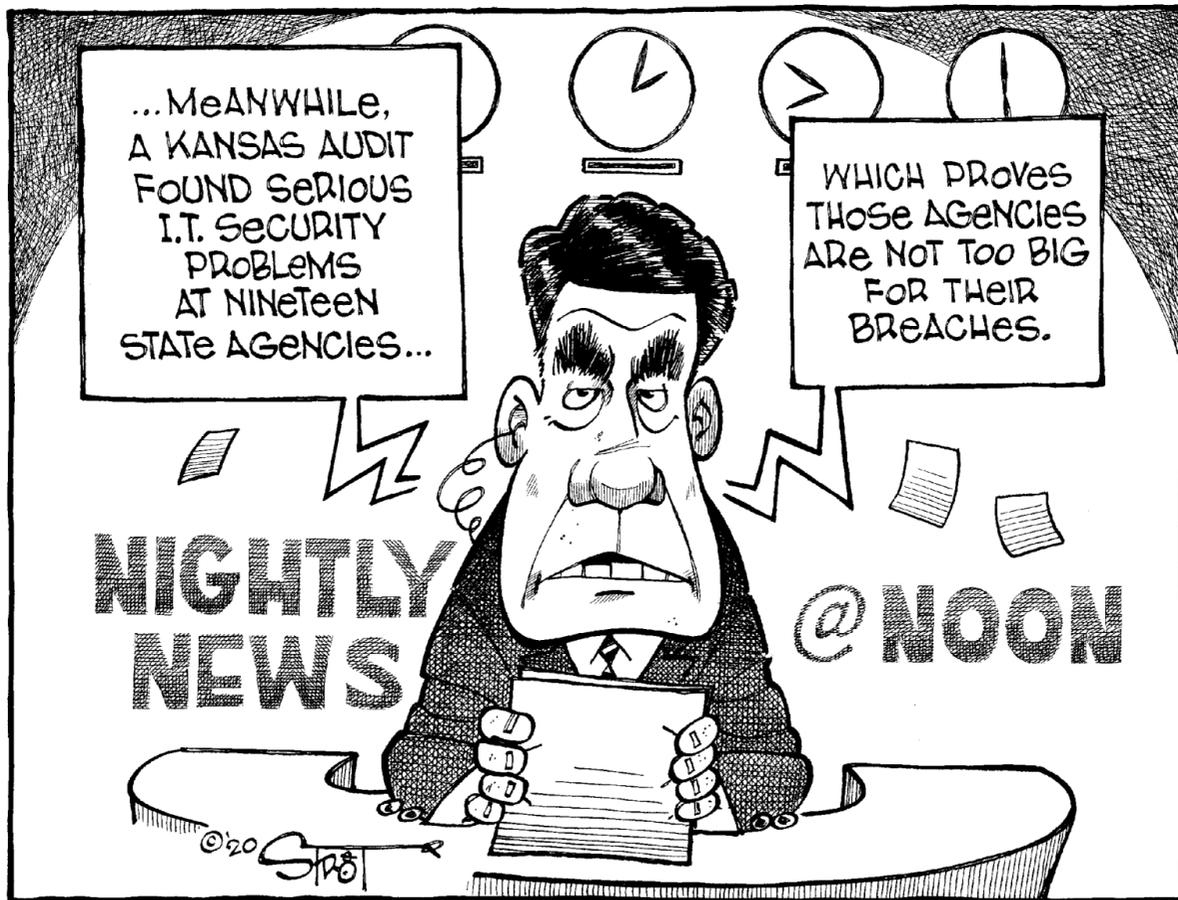
• We do not publish
form letters or letters
about topics which do
not pertain to our area.
Thank-yous from this
area should be submitted
to the classifieds
desk.

• Letters will not be
censored, but will be
read and edited for
form and style and
legality. We will not
publish attacks on
individuals or businesses
which do not pertain
to public issues.

Please limit the length
to 300 words.

Contact

The Republican
Phone: (620) 364-5325
Fax: (620) 364-2607
Email:
ccrepub@gmail.com
Mail letters to:
Coffey County Republican
Drawer A,
Burlington, KS 66839



Letters to the Editor

'I'm a bill'

Dear Editor:

(Editor's Note: Sen. Caryn Tyson wrote the Kansas original, based on an animated version from YouTube. This is a shortened Kansas version.)

Yes, I'm only a bill sitting here ... In Kansas the bill process is a two-year cycle starting in odd years; 452 senate bills were introduced this cycle. You can find the list at http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/measures/bills/senate/#1.

A bill is drafted and introduced, usually being referred to a committee. The bill may have a hearing, be tabled, amended, and/or voted on. If it passes the committee, it goes to the body of the whole, "below the line." The Majority Leader decides if

the bill will be debated on the floor, "above the line."

Rules allow legislators to pull a bill out of committee for a floor vote. This takes more than a majority and is rare. A bill, once on the floor can be amended. After a majority yes vote, final action, the bill is sent to the other chamber to begin the process again. If the second chamber amends the bill, the originating chamber will vote to accept or reject the changes. If the versions are different the bill can be killed or a conference committee, three members from each chamber, can agree on a compromise version, which must pass both chambers before it will go to the governor. The governor can sign the bill into law, veto the bill, or allow it to become law without a signature. The Governor's veto can be overridden by a 2/3 vote of both houses of the Legislature.

For example, SB 294, bringing transparency to your property tax increases, has been voted out of committee and is a popular bill. It will probably be quickly moved "above the line" for debate. Going to <http://www.kslegislature.org> website, you will find a "Find Bill" blank. Put in SB294 and you will see "Bill Version" and "Bill History" to update yourself on this bill. A little hint: This bill concerns your property taxes and some government bureaucrats don't like it, thus you may find it interesting and LIKE it. SB 294 is not on Facebook and does not have a LIKE button, but you can LIKE it by contacting Senator Bruce Givens. His contact data is on the website.

**We the People,
Don Small
Burlington**

Turnaround Day

This is the week that, by Thursday -- and in daylight we're hoping -- we find out just what this session of the Legislature is going to produce for us folks who vote for members of the Legislature whom we send to the Statehouse to, well, produce for us folks.

At the Rail



Martin Hawver
Columnist

lunch money their meals ...

And it's probably the week that we'll be able to decide whether to send those folks back next year to their low-paying jobs that come with indoor parking and, if they have much in the way of social skills, don't need to carry because lobbyists will buy their meals ...

What's special this week? Thursday is "Turnaround Day" when most of those little, workmanlike bills either pass out of the chamber where they were introduced or just die there. Nothing gruesome, they just don't get considered anymore.

Reason for that Turnaround Day is to get things moving. If a legislator or a committee that doesn't deal with budgets or taxes introduces a bill and it can't even get out of its own chamber, well ... maybe it wasn't as good an idea as its sponsors thought. Turnaround Day is almost like a

strainer, to get rid of those bills that don't do much or do more than was imagined when they were introduced or do something that a majority of the members of each chamber don't want done ...

But Turnaround Day also is a tool for legislative leaders, all Republicans, to win favors from members who see their little bills be put up for debate, or maybe put up for debate by those leaders who want votes for other bills. Want that bridge or stretch of highway named for a local hero? Then you might be asked to vote for a bill that allows farmers to sell clearly labeled milk that hasn't been pasteurized. Or, it could go the other way, vote against that bill and leaders will put up for debate, and near-certain passage, that highway/bridge naming bill.

See how it works both ways? That's the part of legislative process here under the dome that you don't hear mentioned much because, well, it would tend to make things here look a little undemocratic, wouldn't it?

So this week to some degree will indicate the tone of the session, when the governor and other statewide officeholders aren't on the ballot for another two years and the House and Senate's members -- and their opponents -- are on the ballot this August and November.

And some of those "little" bills that may or may not come up for debate and stand a chance to be passed into law don't mean much for most Kansans but mean a lot for their proponents.

Ever buy a dozen eggs and find one is dirty or broken? Well, there's a whole procedure for that in state law. There's a House bill that tells retailers that they can take out that broken egg, replace it with a nice perfect egg, but then have to sell the replacement egg and its 11 cohorts as Grade B eggs, unless they meet some rules to be able to sell the new egg and its 11 friends as Grade A.

Probably not going to mean much to most of us ... unless we're selling those eggs and have to sell them for less because one broke and was carefully replaced.

That's the sort of bill that if it isn't passed to the Senate by Turnaround Day it's dead for the session. And, we'll wonder about the history of that egg next to the sizzling bacon.

But only if the bill makes it through Turnaround Day ...

—Syndicated by Hawver News Company LLC of Topeka; Martin Hawver is publisher of *Hawver's Capitol Report* — to learn more about this nonpartisan statewide political news service, visit the website at www.hawvernews.com.

Avoid these most-common scams of 2019

Next week is the first full week of March, which the Federal Trade Commission marks as National Consumer Protection Week. The Kansas Attorney General's office and our In Your Corner Kansas campaign focuses year-round on protecting consumers from scams and rip-offs, but next week in particular we remind Kansans to be diligent and to keep yourself and your personal information safe. One of the ways we do that is to share with you some of the most commonly-reported scams to our office over the past year. This year's report looks familiar, as three of the five scams return from last year's list. However, we have two new scams joining the top five in 2019 -- imposters pretending to be from the Social Security Administration or Publishers Clearing House.

Consumer Corner



Derek Schmidt
Attorney General

Here are the top five scams for 2019:

Computer Repairs. In this scam, the caller claims to be from a well-known computer company telling you they've detect-

ed a virus on your computer and offers to help you remove it by connecting remotely to your computer. But instead of trying to fix your computer, the scam artist is actually trying to install a virus to give them access to all your files and your personal information that is in them. The scammer may also be trying to hack into your machine to send out spam emails from your account, or even to take over your computer's camera and microphone to spy on you and try to obtain additional personal information. If your computer really does have a problem, take it to a reputable, local computer repair shop or call your computer manufacturer's customer service number directly. Never give a stranger access to your computer over the phone.

Government Imposter. This scam involves an imposter claiming to be from different federal, state, or local government agencies. In Kansas, we've seen them call and say you've missed jury duty and need to pay a fine. We've actually had scammers call impersonating the attorney general's office saying they were going to come arrest you if you don't pay a fine immediately. I assure you, we won't do that. Government agencies will always contact you

by a notice in the mail, not by phone. Even if you do get something in the mail, it's always a good idea to look up the agency's number in the blue pages of a phone book or on the agency's official website and call to make sure it's a legitimate letter. Don't call the number listed on the letter. Always take steps to verify anything you receive from someone purporting to be from a government agency is telling the truth and never feel pressured to give your personal information away over the phone.

Social Security Administration. This one is a twist on the government imposter scam involving a robocall claiming to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA) informing you that your benefits are about to end if you don't take action. Rest assured, the real SSA will never call you to cut off your benefits and will never ask you to wire money, make payments via gift card, or send cash payments in order to continue your benefits. If you receive one of these calls, hang up. Do not "press 1," or any other number it asks you to press. Like with all robocall scams, these scammers are after information. If you

In pursuit of dignity and discipline

A recent whirlwind trip took me to both Gettysburg and Washington, D.C., in the same week. Both sites were

Insight



Jackie Mundt
Kansas Farm Bureau

good places to reflect on people, politics and the ideals that guide our actions.

There is something profound about visiting the battlefields of Gettysburg.

It is hallowed ground, full of sacrifice. The site of a battle fought by a nation divided. Brothers and friends fought against each other.

Three years after the gruesome battle, while the Civil War still raged on in the South, Abraham Lincoln visited and gave his famous Gettysburg Address. In it, he did not gloat over his troops' victory or demean the southern soldiers who fell short in their attempts. Instead, he recognized all men who fought for ideals of deep personal significance.

Another day I stood looking toward the U.S. Capitol from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I have a dream..." speech. A line from the speech came to mind, "let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred."

That is where we are; once again divided. This time it is not by geography but by party lines. Our highest officials are constantly posturing for ways to snub each other, and people are criticized for whom they sit by at a baseball game. Bitterness and hatred ring out — reverberated from sea to shining sea on every device or media through news outlets and social networks.

Agriculture seems to be one of the few places where politicians can still reach across the aisle and work for the good of the country. Even that is in danger as old school politicians, who have experienced the fruits of collaboration and bipartisan work, reach retirement.

When did our society lose interest in the common good? Have we become so egotistical and spoiled we believe in the all or nothing mentality, where you are either with us or against us — and if you are against us, you are my enemy?

It does not have to be that way. We have the ability to do as King suggested in his speech and struggle for freedom "on the high plain of dignity and discipline."

My dream for our country is that we would rededicate ourselves to the ideal of being a nation that is indivisible. A nation full of people who choose to practice civility and extend respect to all around them, where a person can be open to views that do not conform to party line and strive to create compromises for the good of all people.

It is time for us to hold ourselves to the highest standards of civility and seek out friendships with those who challenge our mindset. Move away from doing what is comfortable to the difficult that will make a difference in the world. Value those who think critically and speak with reason to their position. Refuse to be defined by ideas that do not fit your beliefs. And if your idea does not prevail, do not hold bitterness or contempt in your heart instead practice grace and humility.

We live in a divisive time, but I have faith that our nation's commitment to pursuing freedom and liberty is strong enough to overcome the differences at hand.

—*Insight* is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.