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Republican

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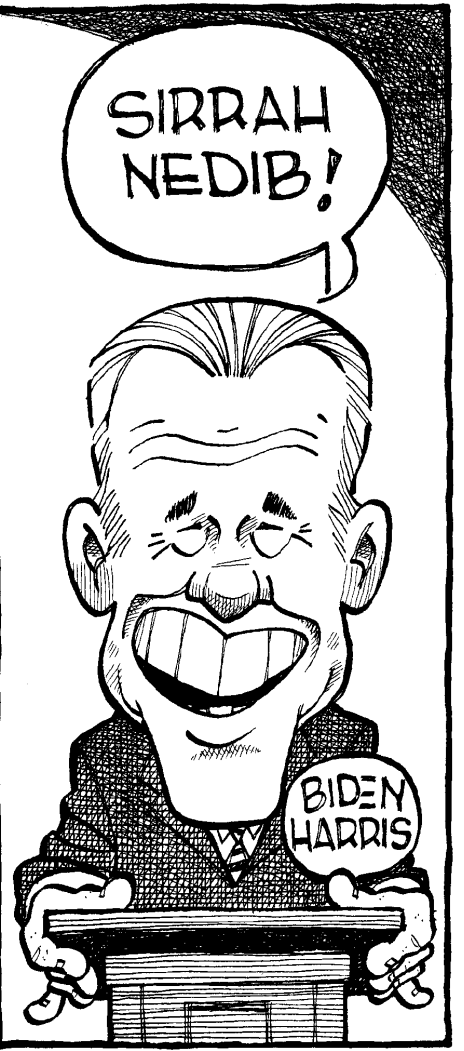
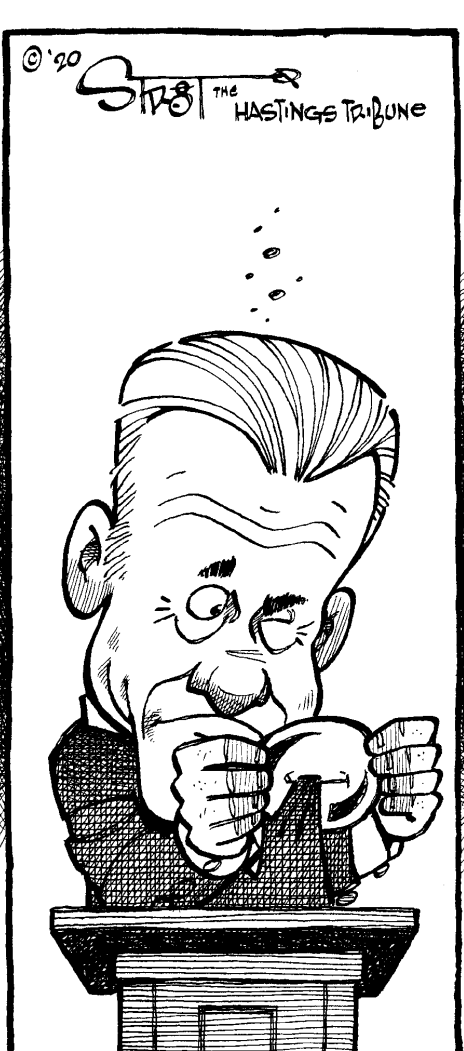
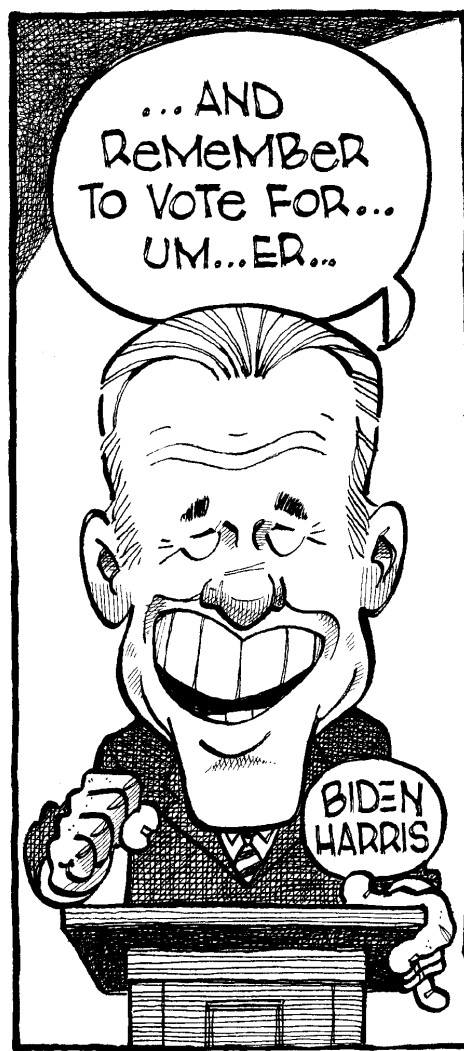
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Seeding success

I have a neighbor who is in his 80s and several years ago he planted a grove of walnut trees. Now that is faith and foresight. I am sure he is not planning on reaping the benefits of those walnut trees unless he has somehow found the fountain of youth. The trees have done quite well, and they have grown very fast for walnut trees but at a conservative guess I will say they are 50, 60 maybe even 100 years away from someone gaining economically from them. That is a crop that requires a great deal of patience.

Insight



Glenn Brunkow
Pottawatomie
County Farmer
and Rancher

That kind of forward thinking makes me marvel at the sacrifice my neighbor is making for the sake of a future generation. Those acres could be planted to crops or at least mowed for hay, but instead he has decided to plant those walnut trees to benefit someone a generation or two or maybe even four down

the road. Someday someone he does not know will benefit greatly from the hard work he is putting in today. In many ways this is like our Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation.

Sure, our Foundation is funding things now. Things like financial help to counties sending members to the Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference or helping to feed those who are hungry in our own communities. That is important but what our Foundation will do in the future is even of greater importance. It will ensure that our counties will have access to funds to promote agriculture, aid in operations of the county Farm Bureau and better the lives of our members.

That is why it is so critical that all of us as members contribute to the Foundation. I know money is tight and ag prices have seen better days. Believe me I know, and I feel your pain. Any gift is appreciated, and all gifts go toward doing important work locally and statewide. I am also aware there are many organizations and causes vying for our limited dollars, but what is more im-

portant than to ensure that we continue to have a strong and vibrant Kansas Farm Bureau?

I am asking that you look at donating to the Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation or the Kansas Farm Bureau Legal Foundation now because, if you haven't noticed, it is already mid-August, and the end of the year is right around the corner. I know many of you are already planning for the new year and wrapping up this past year. I also know that this is the time many of us make charitable contributions, and I would ask that you look at a donation one of our foundations.

Think of it like planting a grove of walnut trees without all the back-breaking labor and years of watering. You can watch the funds in the Foundation grow, all the time knowing that someday the next generation of Farm Bureau member will benefit.

—“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

Five principles of peaceful co-existence

There is one major country that only has one overseas military base: China. It is a supply base in Djibouti for supplying its ships that are assisting in patrolling the East African coast for pirates. In contrast, Britain, France and Russia have roughly 30 foreign military bases combined. The United States has nearly 800 military bases overseas.

Education Frontlines



John Schrock
Educator

Therefore when U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo spoke on July 23 declaring that the “Freedom-loving people of China” don’t want “Marxist-Leninist” rulers,” and continued to speak of China working to “...expand a Chinese empire,” the Secretary of State failed to do his homework. He went on to assert that as a “Marxist-Leninist” nation, China has a “central understanding of how people interact and how societies ought to interact. And it is certainly the case today that the leadership in China believes that.”

That such a high government official is clueless about modern Chinese history and official policies, presents us with the dilemma that our top government foreign representative is supremely ignorant.

The Maoist form of Marxism in China

came to an abrupt end by 1980 when Deng Xiaoping ended communes and launched their market driven economy. That was forty years ago. Along with their huge investment in education, China has undergone the most rapid rise out of poverty in modern history.

And quite the opposite of Pompeo’s delusions about China wishing to impose its system on the rest of the world, China has a long-standing written policy of non-interference that is quite in contrast to the continual interventions by the United States in Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.

Unlike our ongoing history of overseas military actions, China actually has a formal declaration of “Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence” that forbids interference in other countries’ affairs and which they have formalized in treaties with various countries.

The Five Principles consist of:
-mutual respect for each other’s territorial integrity and sovereignty,
-mutual non-aggression,
-mutual non-interference in each other’s internal affairs,
-equality and mutual benefit, and
-peaceful co-existence.

These were first laid down in April 24, 1954 in an agreement between India and China, and then extended to Myanmar (then called Burma) and several other nations. In 2014, President Xi Jinping

celebrated the 60th anniversary of these “Five Principles.”

Xi declared: “In the new era today, the spirit of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, instead of being outdated, remains as relevant as ever; its significance, rather than diminishing, remains as important as ever; and its role, rather than being weakened, has continued to grow.”

These Chinese Five Principles provided the basis for additional actions among other governments, and form the basis of the Non-Aligned Movement established in Yugoslavia in 1961.

The Chinese view is that each country is responsible themselves for building their future based on their history. Unlike Soviet Russia, China has never attempted to impose its political value-system on other countries. In its substantial contributions to the infrastructure of Africa as well as the Belt-and-Road initiative, China has left their wide range of different political systems to evolve on their own.

In contrast, the U.S. often places strings to any aid to foreign countries, expecting them to become more like us.

It is inexcusable that a powerful high-ranking Secretary of State is so ignorant as to not know of China’s Five Principles and accuses China of doing something they will not do, but which we do all of the time.

Watch out for utility scams

Events of the past several months have been challenging for Americans as the world navigates the perils of a global COVID-19 pandemic. Sadly, there is an element of society that is preying on those fears, seeking to add another level of pain and suffering to consumers.

Consumer Corner



Derek Schmidt
Attorney General

Scammers are calling residents or going door-to-door impersonating your utility company, threatening to shut off services, often within the hour or mere days, if they do not receive payment. The scammer insists that they must receive payment and have access to your financial information to keep the lights on, or more importantly, the air conditioner running. We have heard this

complaint frequently in recent weeks. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission has as well and issued guidance on how to prevent becoming another victim.

Many small businesses have also been suffering due to the effects of COVID-19. Unfortunately, this also makes them targets for scammers. The scammers know a business owner would rather pay than risk having their utilities turned off and have to close the business. As always, when it comes to folks you do not recognize calling you and asking for money, your best solution is to hang up. If you have questions about the status of your utility bill payments, call the company directly at the phone number printed on your bill.

Furthermore, scammers may claim the COVID-19 crisis has affected the company in addition to customers, and that they cannot currently process check or card payments. Rest assured,

this is not how legitimate companies will operate. Don’t pay cash to anyone on the spot without any prior notice from your utility company, even if the person has a uniform or an ID that looks real. Even if the individual seems legitimate, call your utility company to confirm they are authorized to visit your home before making any payment.

You can help stop such scams by alerting your friends, neighbors and family so they can protect themselves. Remember, if you receive a call from a scammer just hang up. Better yet, if you don’t recognize the number, don’t answer the phone.

More information on how to protect yourself from these and other scams is available on our consumer protection website at www.InYourCornerKansas.org or by calling our consumer protection hotline at (800) 432-2310.

Low-key activities

Looks like a couple weeks when the Statehouse is going to be virtually empty as Democrats, then Republicans, hold national conventions online; no crowds, social distancing can be done by zip codes, and there aren’t going to be any free-drink receptions for reporters covering the events.



Martin Hawver
Columnist

And at the Statehouse, it’s going to be quiet, with lots of issues to be considered, planned, schemed, but nothing really major in the way of events and only one or two interim legislative committees considering legislation for the upcoming session.

The under-the-sheets action will be, of course, considering just what the pandemic has done and will do to the state’s revenues which are predicted to be about \$600 million or more below estimates that lawmakers are comfortable working with, and nobody wanting to talk out loud about how to make that revenue stretch to cover the needs and wants of Kansans.

So, what’s being quietly discussed — or specifically not discussed out loud where it might show up in the newspapers?

The budget, of course, and whether there’s enough money to keep basic services for most Kansans, and especially the poor, the ill, and their children, in place, along with the standard law enforcement and education funding for elementary and secondary schools...and higher education in an era when there is growing legislative interest in short-term, job-skills post high school.

But the focus is most strong in the next couple weeks on the national political conventions, where former Vice President Joe Biden has chosen Sen. Kamala Harris as his running-mate, and there is still some insider wondering whether President Donald Trump will keep Mike Pence as his vice president, or maybe ... not.

For Kansans, that national ticket for both parties will undoubtedly trickle down to votes for Kansas House and Senate candidates ... and later this week we ought to know just who those legislative candidates are going to be after the state canvass board checks and rechecks votes from border to border to see who will be on the November ballot. That’s not all settled yet, but soon we ought to know who survived that handful of close legislative primary elections.

And there’s going to be more politics springing up when we learn just where the counties have spent about \$400 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act money that the state’s Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Task Force has handed them. Look for every dime to be examined not only for recovery benefits, but to see just what groups got the federal money—and their political leanings if they can be discerned.

Oh, yes, and there’s the reopening of schools in many districts and colleges and universities and whether they trigger a new increase in COVID-19 cases which will ripple from the schoolhouses and campuses into the state as a whole, with the now predictable economic damage to the economy — and yes, again—state revenues.

Lots of low-key activity that might grow to become major import to the state and the remaining two years of Gov. Laura Kelly’s term as governor and the tilt of the Legislature next session.

The national political conventions? Essentially a diversion for most Kansans, who already know who gets their vote. But in a strong Republican state, that pandemic and the administration’s response to it may move votes, especially in the U.S. Senate race.

And while all that’s going on, we still need Kansans to fill out the Census forms so they get counted.



Lots of activity, and strangely, most of it to be observed from home on the TV in the next couple weeks ... when some of us who have had their loafers on the ground for 16 national political conventions just try to get comfortable on the sofa ... and pay for our own drinks ...

(Note: The At The Rail column will be on hiatus the next two weeks while Statehouse activity is expected to be minimal; in non-pandemic presidential election years, The Rail column at this time provided coverage of Kansas delegates at their Republican and Democratic conventions.)

—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.