



The Coffey County
Republican

Published by
Faimon Publications, LLC
324 Hudson
Burlington, KS 66839-1327
(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:
324 Hudson St.,
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

Christina Stohs

Ad Design

Bradley Rice

Circulation Mgr./Classifieds

Denise Sibley

Katherine 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,
324 Hudson St.
Burlington, KS 66839;

or by email to
ccrepub@gmail.com

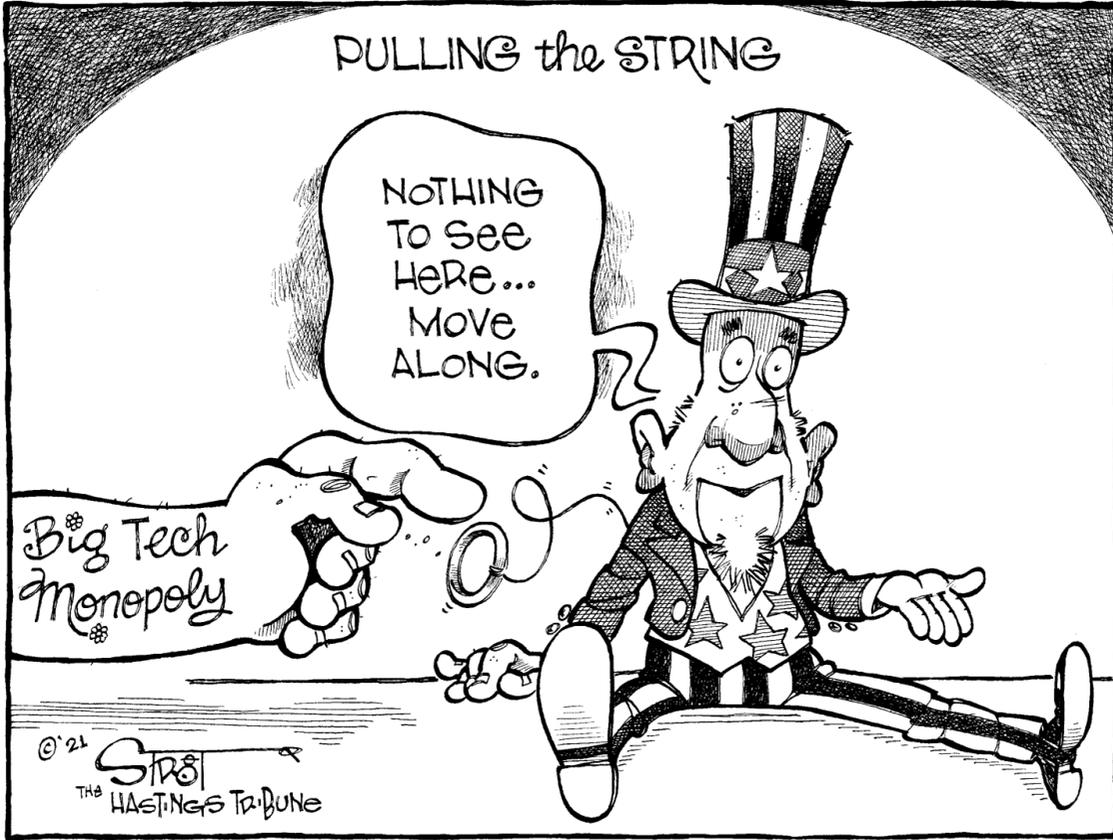
- We do not publish anonymous letters.
- We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the classifieds desk.
- Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style and legality. We will 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
324 Hudson St.
Burlington, KS 66839



Letters to the Editor

'It is all our faults'

Dear Editor:

Judges 21:25 says, "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in their own eyes." Romans 3 notes that, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one ... there is none that does good, no, not one." John Dewey (1859-1952), the founder of OUR education system and the National Education Association, said, "There is no god and there is no soul. Hence, there is no need for the props of traditional religion. With dogma and creed excluded, then immutable truth is dead and buried." Women have worked hard to gain rights? Did their "rights" last? Remember, the system has taught them that there is no need for "props" like "natural law, roles,

or moral absolutes." They have come a long way, baby, but to what?

Thanks to President Biden, women now know "to what" in a world designed by John Dewey. The women's rights movement in 1869 called for equal participation in government, i.e., the right to vote, based on their "sacred" right to life. Dewey's standards soon replaced the absolutes that women based their movement on with Dewey's concept. In 1973, the immutable right to life became an elective, and 63 million babies have been aborted in the U.S. In 2021 the right to be a woman became an elective and The absolutes of science that progressives touted no longer apply to life or women. What is next?

Being pro-choice is OK if you are a woman and want to kill your child, now it is also OK if you are a man and want to become a woman. Like the baby killed by choice in an abortion, women have a problem. Babies had no choice, women

must live with it. Having thought they were reaching the finish line, women were passed by a man with a Presidential Executive Order in his hand. Again, like Israel, man has tried to reject God in favor of a man.

Is it the women's fault? Is it the men's fault? It is most certainly the church's fault! It is all OUR faults!

In the Old Testament Israel tried to replace God with a king. Then "everyone did that which was right in their own eyes." In the U.S., "We the people" are the king and as with Israel, God will not go away. Perhaps we need to reverse the process? 2Ch 7:14 says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

We the People,
Don Small
Burlington

We need congressional term limits

I understand that I was sent to Washington to fulfill my promises and serve the needs of my constituents. In recognition of that, I moved swiftly to co-sponsor a Constitutional Amendment that imposes term limits on all members of Congress.

Washington, D.C., has increasingly become a place where politicians arrive with the sole objective of permanently staying in power.

The American people are fed up with this status quo.

It turns out that when members of Congress spend every waking moment

of their term consumed with their own re-election prospects, the concerns of Americans fall by the wayside. As a result, all we are left with is unsolved problems and a \$27 trillion national debt (and counting!)

It is time for a major reform to the system. Thankfully, the Framers devised a brilliant method to modify our Constitution, granting us the ability to implement term limits through the amendment process.

In fact, we have already amended our Constitution to impose term limits on the office of the President. The 22nd Amendment imposed a two-term limit on the presidency as a check on executive power in government. The same logic should be applied to Congress.

The bill I co-sponsored proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives would be limited to three two-year terms of service. Members of the U.S. Senate would be limited to two six-year terms of service.

Congressional term limits will provide the Legislature with new people who have fresh ideas and are strictly focused on serving the interests of their constituents during their short time in Congress.

If we are serious about draining the swamp in Washington, term limits should be one of our top priorities.

Beware of scams to steal identity during tax season

Another year has come and gone, and despite all the disruptions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic one annual ritual remains: tax season. Identity thieves are constantly looking for new ways to separate you from your hard-earned money, and they will use the tax season as a way to do it.

Tax identity theft occurs when scammers find a way to use a legitimate taxpayer's identity and personal information to file a tax return and claim a fraudulent refund. With the speed and efficiency of electronic tax filing, the victim is usually not aware of the incident until notified by the Internal Revenue Service that more than one return was filed in his or her name, or that he or she has a discrepancy in taxable earnings and employer identification information. By that time, your tax refund is often already in the hands of the scam artist.

Another prevalent tax-related scam is

the IRS imposter. The scammer will claim you owe taxes and demand that you pay immediately over the phone, usually with a gift card or pre-paid debit card. Like a typical phone scam, they'll attempt to pressure you into making a bad decision without properly thinking it through; in some cases, they'll even threaten to arrest you. The real IRS will never do this, so as always just hang up. Never share your personal information over the phone, or online or through the mail for that matter, unless you initiated the contact and are 100 percent certain of that person's identity.

Here are some additional tips to help protect you from becoming a victim of identity theft:

- Protect your Social Security number (SSN). Don't carry your Social Security card or other documentation with your SSN on it. Provide your SSN only when required, such as filing taxes or applying for a loan. Be wary of websites or retailers that request this information.
- Protect important financial and personal information. Personal financial documents and past years' tax returns

should be kept in a secure location such as a locked filing cabinet or a fire safe box and securely destroyed when no longer needed.

- Protect your personal computer files by installing firewalls and anti-spam/virus software. It's also extremely important to periodically change your computer and Internet passwords.
- Check your credit report annually. Monitoring your credit report helps make you aware of unusual or unauthorized activity and can alert you to possible identity theft. The Federal Trade Commission has additional tips and suggestions for guarding your identity at www.consumer.ftc.gov/.

If you receive a notice from the IRS or suspect your identity has been falsely used to claim a tax refund, you can visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov for instructions on proper reporting procedures. If you believe you have been the victim of identity theft or a scam, you can file a report online with our Consumer Protection Division at www.InYourCornerKansas.org or give us a call at (800) 432-2310.

Contact Your Representatives

State Representative
76th District: **Rep. Eric L. Smith**, 627 Kennebec St., Burlington, KS 66839. (620) 490-1458; **Capitol Office**, Room 176-W, State Capitol, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-7557, Eric.Smith@house.ks.gov or esmith@coffeycountyks.org.

State Senator
14th District: **Sen. Michael Fagg**, 1810 Terrace Dr., El Dorado, KS 67042, (316) 321-1690; **Capitol Office**, Room 234-E, State Capitol, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-7678, Michael.Fagg@senate.ks.gov or mdfagg2000@yahoo.com.

Governor
Gov. Laura Kelly, 300 SW 10th Ave., Ste. 241S, Topeka, KS 66612-1590, 877-KSWORKS, (785) 296-3232, governor.governor.kansas.gov/contact/.

U.S. Representative
Rep. Jake LaTurner, 1630 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515, (202) 225-6601; **Topeka Office**, 3550 SW 5th St., Topeka, KS 66606, (785) 234-5966. Website: www.laturner.house.gov.

U.S. Senators
Sen. Jerry Moran, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 521, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-6521, (202) 228-6966 (fax); **Pittsburg Office**, P.O. Box 1372, 306 N. Broadway, Suite 125, Pittsburg, KS 66762, (620) 232-2286, (620) 232-2284 (fax). Website: moran.senate.gov/public.

Sen. Roger Marshall, Russell Senate Office Building, Suite B33, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-4774, (202) 224 3514 (fax); Website: www.marshall.senate.gov/public.

Still pushing forward

I was recently asked to help judge an FFA speech contest. I happily agreed to help as I thoroughly enjoy listening to young adults present

Insight



Kim Baldwin
Kansas Farm Bureau

their research and memorized written work before a panel of strangers. Besides, setting aside a few hours to judge is the least I can do to help support a valuable organization that helped shape me. This year's contest was void of a building full of chattering high schoolers from around Kansas nervously working through their manuscripts one last time before presenting to a room of judges. There was no electric feeling in the air from teens anxiously pacing hallways prior to their events. There was no tabulation room where FFA advisors would catch up with one another over warm cups of coffee and cold donuts. There was no pizza for students and adult volunteers to devour. This year's event was virtual.

Some of my best FFA memories were when I'd get up hours before the sun, drive into town, get on a yellow bus with my fellow FFA members and travel to contests and events. Those were always the mornings I didn't want to hit the snooze button.

On the bus, I'd practice for my contest followed by a jam out session to the likes of AC/DC, thanks to someone bringing their boombox. We would all look forward to seeing our friends from across the state and being able to hangout and socialize after completing our contests while waiting for judges to tabulate scorecards. We'd play cards, eat junk food, listen to music and sometimes harass our tired ag teachers. Competing was fun. Building my skills was fun. But the social aspect was something I genuinely looked forward to as well.

I checked into the Zoom meeting room from the comfort of my kitchen. One by one, students from across the central part of Kansas would be admitted into our virtual room at their assigned time to give their prepared speech on a topic of their choice — aiming to be within six and eight minutes — before completing a five-minute question and answer session with the judges.

I'm not sure if the absence of live, in-person stone-faced judges staring at you eased the anxiety of this year's batch of prepared public speakers. I do know there was a new set of unofficial criteria each student had to mentally check aside from making sure their tie was on straight and their jacket was zipped properly before walking into a room and giving their speech at their assigned time.

Students had to be cognizant of their Wi-Fi connections, their audio levels, their lighting, the angle of their computer screens, their backgrounds and any background noises that could potentially derail a speaker. Hands down, there were a lot more that students had to prepare for this year.

While some students presented their speeches in classrooms, others presented from a room in their homes. Regardless, every one of the speakers showed up on time in their official dress to present work they had spent weeks, if not months, preparing.

While it would have been easy to take a pass on this year's speech event because the traditional environment was nonexistent, and because students didn't get out of school for the day, and because there was no bus ride where students could bond, and there was no opportunity to mingle with students from other schools while waiting for scores to post. I have to say that agriculture students from across central Kansas still put in the work and performed to the best of their abilities this year even though the extra perks of traveling to a contest and seeing their friends didn't happen.

The caliber of work presented and the number of students competing was not lost.

While COVID-19 sure has led to the creation of different experiences I don't think any of us could have imagined a year ago; I admire the students (and their teachers) still pushing forward for continued self-improvement and excellence, even in the time of a pandemic.

"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.