

Opinion

Lighting
the way



THE UNION

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Geary County, USD 475

Official city newspaper
of Junction City,
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Plaza

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- Casey's, 624 S. Washington St.
- BJ's Convenience Store at the US-77/K-57 intersection
- Walmart, east Chestnut Street
- Dollar General, east Chestnut Street
- CVS Pharmacy, east Chestnut Street

At these outdoor racks:

- By the drive-up mail drop-off at the US Post Office
- In front of the All Bout Grinding Convenience Store, 1036 W. 6th St.
- At Sapp Bros. Travel Center off US-77 at 1913 Lacey Drive
- In front of 222 W. 6th St.
- In front of Stacy's Restaurant, 118 W. Flint Hills Blvd., Grandview Plaza

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Mr. Mayor

A comic strip loosely based a certain mayor in a particular small town in Kansas.



FROM THE PUBLISHER

Everyone deserves due process

Yes, non-citizens, immigrants and MS-13 gang members, too

By Ryan D. Wilson
Union Publisher

What I've found so disturbing about efforts to deport non-citizens isn't that they want to do that, but how they are doing it — without any sort of due process whatsoever.

I understand the right's reasons for wanting to secure the border and the arguments for and against

deportation. Heck, I even agree with them to a certain extent — the U.S. shouldn't be a haven for the world's criminals. But this column isn't about that, but rather the unconstitutional methods the current administration has used to deport a massive number of people without due process.

Due process is essentially having a hearing, though it is more encompassing than just holding

a hearing. Due process gives us a means to ensure the law is being executed correctly. It's how we determine criminals are indeed criminals and not just someone saying they are.

I often see in memes and posts online from conservatives that illegal immigrants don't deserve due process. The fallacy here is that without due process we aren't able to determine whether

these people who were deported were actually illegal immigrants and have little to no recourse when mistakes are made.

Even Clay Center isn't immune to our neighbors being deported. We received a letter from a local resident who decided to withdraw it stating their employee's work visa had been terminated without

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for standing up for free speech

Editor's Note: J. Basil Dannebohm's column is shared on both Facebook pages for The Union and The Dispatch in the evening every Monday or Tuesday. Like in the movie "The French-Dispatch," our goal is to expose readers to the best of politics and culture by sharing work of the best writers we can find, from multiple perspectives, be it liberal or conservative.

Just a quick, albeit long overdue note of thanks.

Over the last few months, I've

received messages from residents in the Clay Center and Junction City areas, who read my opinion pieces in your publication. Proof that local papers are very relevant, and highly effective.

As you can imagine, I receive the positive feedback. I'm sure you receive the negative messages.

We live in an age where free speech is once again under attack. Those attacks aren't just waged by political operatives. Private citizens on both sides,

who simply don't like an opposing opinion, have begun insisting that anything standing in opposition to their liking be "cancelled." It's a dangerous precedent.

While you might not always agree with everything I write, I commend the courage you have exhibited by publishing my work. Thank you for standing up for free speech when far too many publications are bowing under pressure.

This note is not to suggest that

I will be slowing down anytime soon. Though I am currently writing not one, but two books that have been accepted for publication, and the bulk of my time is spent researching and writing, I am still keeping a watchful eye on current events. My weekly commentaries will continue. As always, you're welcome to publish them as you see fit.

Be assured of my gratitude and good wishes.

Regards.

J. Basil Dannebohm