

VAN YANDELL

Rivers in the big blue seas

Psalm 8: 8 “The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passes through the paths of the seas.”

We have long promoted the belief that life’s most pressing questions are answered in the Holy Bible. Simply stated, God in His omniscience knew everything long before mankind discovered the simplest of facts.

We know from simple observation, God tells us the future and the future is now. Bible prophesies are happening before our very eyes. I hope to live long enough to see what other secrets of nature and future events will be discovered and happen only to find they were foretold long ago in the Bible.

A very prominent character in oceanographic history and science was Matthew Fontaine Maury. Being born an American in Spotsylvania County Virginia, he was also an oceanographer. His love and curiosity of the seas led him into the United States Navy. He joined the Confederacy in 1861 during the American Civil War.

Maury was nicknamed “Pathfinder of the Seas.” Being a student of the Bible, he discovered Psalm 8: 8 and his curiosity was piqued to never be satisfied until he found those paths in the sea as described in the scriptures written by King David nearly 3000 years ago.

Maury believed with great certainty that those “paths” did exist in the seas and he set out to find them. And that he did! His success at those discoveries led him to be considered the founder of modern oceanography. His book “The Physical Geography of the Sea” published in 1855 is still used as a text in universities.

Maury also published “The Wind and Current Chart of the North Atlantic.” His system of recording

oceanographic data was adopted by navies and merchant marines worldwide. Charts for major trade routes were developed using his research findings.

Maury also made important contributions to the charting of wind currents and air movements. By his discoveries, navigation of the oceans was greatly aided for sailors. His study of prevailing winds also validates the meanings of Ecclesiastes 1: 6 written by Solomon.

By using his discoveries, sailing ships could cross oceans in fewer days by navigating according to those findings.

All this was done, because Matthew Fontaine Maury read the Holy Bible, and took it very seriously. He believed as most of today’s Judeo-Christians believe, the Bible was inspired by God and written by men. Why else might he have invested a major part of his life to seeking out the ocean currents?

Maury completely believed in 1 Corinthians 10: 31 “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” He credited his discoveries to God because God foretold of those “paths” and established them at creation.

Maury’s research proved God’s foreknowledge of the earth and how its physical design was perfected to balance nature in ways man could never imagine. Even the cycle of the moon determines many characteristics of the seas, primarily the tides. The moon’s orbital path, speed and distance from the earth are perfectly balanced.

He was criticized for implying a Biblical and scientific connection and it was not in his lifetime other scientists began to realize the connection between the two. To say he was alone in his thinking at the time would be accurate.

An example of his findings is the

Gulf Stream, an ocean current originating in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. It progresses along the coast of North America and eventually ends in the polar regions of the North Atlantic.

Ponce de Leon actually was the first to notice the Gulf Stream in 1513 and used it to navigate ships back to Europe from the New World.

An example of God’s amazing creation, the Gulf Stream carries nutrients from the Gulf of Mexico to the North Atlantic benefiting numerous birds and sea creatures.

Matthew 8: 27 “But the men marvelled, saying, what manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!” The power of our Creator is often demonstrated (John 1: 3) in the Bible.

As we study the Holy Bible and scientific principles in depth, we find that the balance and synchronization of creation must have had a creator. The perfection in which nature operates is beyond accidental, coincidental or in any way possible without intelligent design. Things just don’t fall perfectly into place! God is in control!

Many non-believers are today claiming the Bible is not a scientific book. Findings of men such a Matthew Maury conclusively dispute this shallow belief.

Man’s attempts to outwit and outsmart God have always miserably failed. Writing our own set of rules for science or life in general is foolish and the scripture advises against it (Revelation 22: 18b-19a).

When we consider King David and his son Solomon probably never saw an ocean, the only acceptable rationale for Psalm 8: 8 and Ecclesiastes 1: 6 is that God “told” those writers what to write.

I was once asked “Why do you believe in God?” At that time my an-

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GRAHAM COUNTY’S PAST

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IN PRINTER’S INK

VERA FISCHER, GH CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY



..in Printers’ Ink

125 years ago - January 25, 1900

The People’s Reveille

Notice: This is to notify the public that I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by my wife, Mamie, she having deserted her bed and board of her own free will and accord. Signed, Geo. M. Kerr, Hill City, Kansas.

100 years ago - January 29, 1925

The Reveille=New Era

The low places in our streets are being filled in with dirt. A capital idea. When the frost comes out, the dirt will pack down. Then, if the water ways are kept open so that the flood waters don’t run to the center of the streets, all will be well with our streets.

75 years ago - January, 1950

The Hill City Times

A prairie fire, swept on by 50 mile an hour winds, burned across approximately 5,000 acres of Graham County farmland Saturday afternoon and night, menacing homes and farm buildings before being brought under control. The fire started on the Henry Butcher farm where a straw stack had burned Friday and it had been believed the fire was entirely out.

50 Years ago - January 23, 1975

The Hill City Times

The murder of two young women and a three-year-old boy occurred at an abandoned farmhouse 20 miles southeast of Hill City. The bodies were discovered last Monday and officials believe they had been dead exactly one month.

25 Years ago - January 19, 2000

The Hill City Times

No precipitation was recorded here in the past week by the local weather observer for the Goodland National Weather Station, Bob Richmeier. The weather continued to be unseasonably mild with a record high of 71 degrees recorded on Saturday, January 15. A low of 18 for the week was recorded on January 14. Due to the lack of moisture, the area is extremely dry with grass fire dangers very high.

Insight - Kansas Farm Bureau
Tinkering with taxes

by Greg Doering
Kansas Farm Bureau

My local public library has perhaps the best marketing of a tax-provided service ever. Patrons who check out items there receive a receipt that details the savings achieved by using the library. In 2024, my wife and I “saved” close to \$5,000, according to this accounting.

There are some generous assumptions made to achieve that figure. The biggest, of course, is that we would have paid the retail price for every book we checked out. Then there’s the matter of the property tax we paid directly to the library, which would knock about \$200 off the alleged savings.

Even with the creative accounting, I think it’s safe to say we came out ahead in the value proposition. The savings likely didn’t exceed the entire property tax liability of our home as the library would like us to believe, but we did receive a benefit far above the list price on our tax bill.

On the other hand, the vast majority of our property tax bill went to services we didn’t directly use but still benefitted from. Things like police and fire protection along with elementary schools and road repairs. All are vital to a thriving community. I believe people who keep our communities safe, run into burning buildings, educate the next generation and patch potholes are all underpaid.

Primarily because while we enjoy the services provided by taxes, we don’t like getting the bill. This is especially true of property taxes where the benefits are diffuse and not neatly allocated on the tab we receive each fall.

Logically, I understand property taxes are like a subscription service for ongoing services, similar to the bills I receive from my internet provider and Netflix. But I can cancel those services without consequence if I think their cost exceeds their value.

In reality, property taxes are a mix of policy and politics that we’ve collectively chosen through voting for city councilors, county commissioners and state leg-

islators. I can’t say they always get things right, but they usually find the appropriate balance.

Often good politics are at odds with good policy. Generally speaking, our state’s property tax system is fair and balances the impact of taxation on various property uses in a judicious manner. I’m sure there’s room for improvement, but it could also be much worse.

A recent proposal to limit the valuation growth of residential and commercial property is one of those times where politics is running ahead of policy. While I would likely benefit from such a change from a tax standpoint, I don’t know if I’d come out ahead after accounting for the unintended consequences.

A cap on appraisals to limit the growth of property taxes is an attempt to manipulate the market. If the legislature wants to lower property taxes it has the power to reduce its current 21.5-mill levy that supports funding for public schools and university maintenance.

That would provide an immediate relief to homeowners, businesses and landowners. The proposal to limit appraisal growth wouldn’t undo any of the meteoric rise of years gone by but instead would slowly shift tax burdens from fast-growing areas to ones with slower growth. It would create an incentive for people to not move and levy taxes based not on a property’s actual value, but rather when it was purchased.

Older, more established people who happen to frequent their local library would pay far less than the newlyweds who bought the house next door despite both receiving similar services. If the legislature is determined to tinker with taxes, it should stick to setting rates rather than pursuing a policy that will create collateral damage in the future.

“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.

Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, January 29, 2025)

Quarterly Claims Report for Graham County

	BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	RECEIPTS & TRANSFERS	TRANSFERS & DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING CASH BALANCE
STATE FUNDS	0	3,663.13	3,663.13	0
COUNTY BUDGETED FUNDS	6,499,824.36	828,812.82	1,906,360.25	5,422,276.93
NON-BUDGETED FUNDS	2,631,213.86	107,039.25	153,850.36	2,584,402.75
TAX FUNDS	39,827.77	21,256.05	19,245.6	41,838.22
TAX HOLDING FUNDS	326,266.45	2,908,481.53	419,428.64	2,815,319.34
CITY FUNDS		59,486.44	59,486.44	0
TOWNSHIP FUNDS	0	2,944	2,944	0
FIRE DISTRICT	95,326.45	9,852.47	20,495.64	84,683.28
SCHOOL FUNDS	69.64	122,138.78	122,138.78	69.64
CEMETARY FUNDS		270.21	270.21	0
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FUNDS	14,205.39	870.72	0	15,076.11
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	9,606,733.92	4,064,815.4	2,707,883.05	10,963,666.27

Legal Notice

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RESOLUTION NO. 25-01

RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AND FIXED ASSET ACCOUNTING

WHEREAS, the City of Hill City, Kansas has determined that the financial statements and financial reports for the year ending December 31, 2025, to be prepared in conformity with the requirements of K.S.A. 1981 75-1120(a) are not relevant to the requirements of the cash basis and budget laws of this state and are of no significant value to the Governing Body of the City of Hill City, Kansas or members of the general public of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, there are no revenue bond ordinances or resolutions or other ordinances or resolutions of said City which require financial statements and financial reports to be prepared in conformity with said act for the year ending December 31, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HILL CITY, KANSAS in regular meeting duly assembled this 20th day of January, 2025, that the City of Hill City, Kansas requests the Director of Accounts and reports to waive the requirements of said law as they apply to the City of Hill City, Kansas for the year ending December 31, 2025, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Governing Body shall cause its financial statement and financial reports of said City to be prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements as adjusted to show compliance with the cash basis and budget laws of this State.

Jean M. Bell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aphton Griffey, City Clerk

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& We Need Your Support!

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