

Closing loopholes could raise millions

A Kansas House committee took up part of the plan to “close loopholes” in the state sales tax last week, a bill that would raise \$182 million for the cash-strapped state and maybe stave off further cuts in the coming year.

And what loophole would the bill close to work its wonders?
Yours, of course.

Most of the money would come from eliminating the exemption for residential utility bills – water, sewer, electric and gas – now enjoyed by Kansas citizens. That means every time you get that irritatingly high January gas bill, or the soaring July electric charge, you’d get to pay 5.3 per cent more to help pay the state’s bills.

Does anyone think this will fly?

But the Legislature has already been beaten up by the Girl Scouts and the Cancer Society, who complained bitterly when someone suggested they should lose the exemptions they got from the Legislature in better times. The Cancer Society said it would lose thousands now spent on research and aid if it has to pay sales tax on its purchases.

Rep. John Faber pointed out in Oberlin last week, the state probably could solve all its money problems by ending one huge tax exemption – the one farmers get on equipment they buy. With a combine priced at well over \$300,000 these days, that’s about \$16,000 of hurt a whack, maybe more.

Quickly, you might ask yourself, who has better lobbyists in Topeka, the Farm Bureau, or you?

Then, you know who will win if push comes to shove.

“Besides, I don’t think I could vote for that,” said Rep. Faber, a farmer, with a grin.

Tax law is largely a matter of whose ox is being gored, it seems, and who has the bigger stick when the infighting starts. And every tax break has someone who reaps its rewards.

The farmers have their tax breaks, to be sure. Businesses have theirs, an exemption on machinery and equipment. You even have yours, on utilities.

That may be why Gov. Mark Parkinson suggested a temporary 1 percent increase in the sales tax. That way, at least everybody (but the Girl Scouts, the Cancer Society and your church) gets to share the pain.

But with record numbers of Kansans out of work, with layoffs common and many families making less every year, can people afford any tax increase this year?

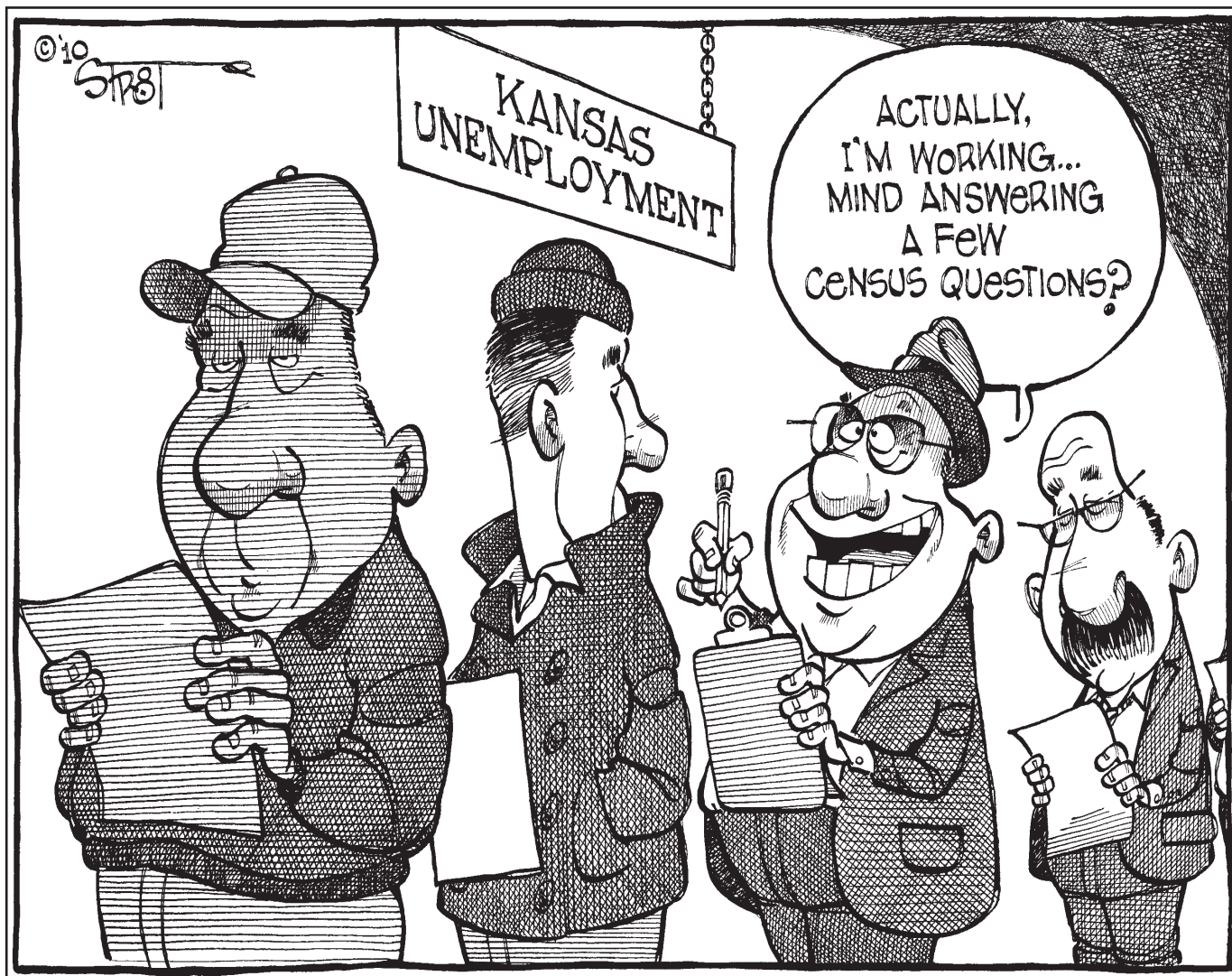
It’s a good question. By and large, those who spend tax money feel we can. Many who pay taxes are not so sure.

Schools, services for the handicapped, medical care, hospitals and doctors, roads, colleges, all are important. All have suffered unreasonable cuts. But so has the average Kansas family.

The budget will get worked out. Life will go on. Kansas will have both schools and farms 10 years from now.

But not before the big fighting coming up next month on whose ox will be gored and whose exemptions will live to see another day. We all need to pay close attention, because we all have a stake in this game.

— Steve Haynes



Does your horse have a hitch in its step?

Many horses are sold or given away simply because they suddenly start a bad habit that the owner assumes can not be fixed. Problems may include: bucking the rider off, head shyness to the point that they are rearing away or not stopping when they are signaled. These and other common problems can usually be resolved by certain equine chiropractic techniques. Unfortunately, chiropractic methods are not appropriate for all issues. Sometimes even after the condition has been fixed through chiropractic care, the horse continues to exhibit the learned behavior (bad habit) and requires behavior modification for resolution.

So, where do we start with your horse? First, a detailed history of the horse is needed. This includes: age, problem, how long the problem has been present, etc. Next, the horse is observed at a trot in a straight line. The horse’s gait is evaluated, determining if there is any hitch in his step. Then, the horse is palpated from nose to tail, top to bottom, including the legs. The animal is observed for any signs of pain. In some horses it is very apparent whether the rider is left or right

Vet tips

Amber

Nuttycomb, RVT



handed due to more misalignments in the neck region. In general, people tend to be heavier with the dominant side, so the pull is harder on the rein with that hand.

When I have located the specific problems in each horse, I perform chiropractic adjustments. In order to reach the top most areas of a horse’s back, I sometimes use hay bales or a mineral bucket. After I adjust the areas, I then massage the muscles to relax them. This aids in keeping the bones in alignment. Chiropractic is 90 percent muscle and 10 percent bone. When muscles have chronically been tight and have pulled bones out of alignment, it may take several chiropractic adjustment sessions to train the muscles into healthy normal placement and relieve the bone misalignment.

At the beginning and end of the horse’s session, I stretch the muscles to free up

any tight areas. During this time, the before and after range of motion and flexibility is also compared. Finally, the horse is trotted again to observe for gait improvement. If needed, medication is recommended for pain and inflammation relief. Also, depending upon the severity of the misalignment, the horse may not be able to be ridden for one to two weeks, allowing for rest and healing. The severity of the misalignment will determine if more chiropractic sessions may be needed in succeeding weeks.

I have had great success, with many horses only needing one chiropractic session. These animals return only when a new problem arises. How long your horse has been out of alignment and the severity of the misalignment will determine the number of chiropractic adjustments needed. Horses are unique animals and can become misaligned by simply rolling in the pasture. It is also very important to have your horse seen by a farrier and to have the teeth floated regularly before chiropractic care. If your horse suddenly forms a new bad habit or just does not seem right, call us immediately!



To....Nex Tech for having the televised regional wrestling tournament on. It was a blessing. (Called in)

To....the wrestling boys for the support they give to our basketball team by being the yell leaders. (Called in)

To render a Thumbs Up write:
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Proud to be a Blue Jay



your team....” It went “I tried to pay for a cookie at the tent, but they wouldn’t let me.”

The family could not stop talking about our hospitality and how it was the best hospitality that they had EVER experienced ANYWHERE! They were also very impressed with our football team

as a whole, and how unified they were as they ran out and throughout the game. At that moment I was definitely PROUD TO BE A BLUE JAY!

Hope you find this story as great as my family thinks it is!

And share it with as many or as few people as you want, but that moment made me so grateful that I grew up in an amazing school district and I am proud to be an alumni.

Take care and many blessings,

Mandy
Amanda (Antrim) Hands graduated from Norton Community High School in 2006. She is a senior at Friends University in Wichita and works in the Admissions Office.

The Olympic dream

As many of you know, I am not a sports fan, but I do love the Olympics, particularly the winter ones. I’m sure there are many of the same stories in professional sports, but unfortunately I seldom hear them. Although the dream of money plays a role in the Olympics, it is the desire to exceed one’s personal best, the hard work and dedication which appeals to me and the coming together of youth from around the world to share a common bond.

We often think of the pushy parent or the driven coach and certainly they are a part of the package, but most often it is the desire to become an Olympian and the love of the sport which drives the athlete. Early morning workouts and dedicated work ethic are their trademarks. Parents encourage and support their child, but a

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



parent can’t make a child work beyond their abilities. These are youth who are willing to get up at 4:00 a.m. and sacrifice the teen experience. These are the families who mortgage homes, move across the country or, in some cases, move half way around the world to allow their child that one shot at the dream of being in the Olympics.

Although we often think of the Olympics in reference to the Greeks, the mod-

ern day games were initiated by a Frenchman. Many believe Pierre de Coubertin thought France lost the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 because their youth lacked “vigor.” He began his quest to restore the Olympics after studying the education of the children of Germany, England and the United States and focused on not just exercise but rather on the competition of sports to make a “well rounded and vigorous person.” After years of promoting the Olympics, he led the formation of the International Olympic Committee.

He said: “Let us export our oarsmen, our runners, our fencers into other lands. That is the true Free Trade of the future; and the day it is introduced into Europe the cause of Peace will have received a new and strong ally.”

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