



Leadership called on to cut their own budget

The governor has the Republicans running the Legislature this time, and they're going to have to admit it.

With a wry smile, Gov. Mark Parkinson, a Democrat, called on the leadership to cut its own budget the way some members are threatening to cut everyone else's.

What else can the GOP members do?

The Associated Press reported this week that proposals submitted to Gov. Parkinson's office by the legislative leadership projected spending up 4 percent this year and 3 percent next year.

The leadership sent up a howl. They said the figures represent projected needs, a wish list, not what they planned to spend — just like every other state agency.

One House leader noted that the governor's budget has been growing, too, but his office has taken over grant programs from other agencies in the last couple of years. It may not be able to cut back to 2006 levels, as public schools have been forced to do.

The governor changed course this fall and came out in favor of a tax increase to keep schools and other programs from suffering further cuts next year. Basically, he said, the fat is gone from state spending. Further cuts will hurt.

Legislators have been cutting their own spending along with schools, colleges and prisons. Leaders say they are prepared to do again

what they did in fiscal 2009, when they slashed spending below 2008 levels.

Still, there's no room in the budget for any increases. The budget hawks on the Republican side should know they have to lead by example. It was poor form to even submit a wish list.

And there certainly is no excuse for even considering any increase in pay, either for state employees or the Legislature itself. With thousands of Kansans unable to find jobs, how can families afford a tax increase to pay for raises?

The governor appears to favor an increase in the tobacco tax, the Associated Press reported, though there's been talk of hiking the sales tax or at least eliminating some "loopholes."

School and colleges are important. So are prisons and parole officers, highways and a host of other things the state does. But when Kansas families are having trouble making ends meet and Kansas businesses scrape just to meet payroll, can they afford to pay the state more?

Pressure for a tax increase from well-organized lobbies, including school boards and teachers, state employees and those who use state programs, will be tremendous.

But before the battle starts, let's rule out any increase for the Legislature, the governor's office and other elected officials. Any pay increases at all.

And do as Kansans everywhere are doing — do more with less.

— Steve Haynes

Hangin' With Marge

Last of the hospital story

By Margaret Bucholtz



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Editor's note: The following "Hangin'" is a continuation of last week's story telling about the recent knee surgery.

The first day they had me up and walking. First it was with a walker and that was great. It really did feel good to move. By the afternoon, they had me walk to the rehab room and with a crutch I learned to go up and down the stairs.

I really thought I was alert and going places. The very next day I was dressing to come home. I had a walking brace on my leg, the blood drain tube was removed and I was ready to see my home sweet home.

Kurt and I got there and within minutes my daughter, Lezlie, and husband, Casey, were there with

food. Now this is when it got weird. I knew what I was doing and saying but it sure didn't make any sense the next day.

First Casey and Kurt took out the sink in the bathroom and put my brand new 23-26 percent riser on the porcelain pony. (Our bathrooms are small so something had to go to make room for me, my leg brace, and walker.)

As I sit in my living room I could see all kinds of cobwebs hanging down and I asked Kurt why he had put that blue fertilizer on the carpet. It looked just like phosphorous had been added to the beige carpet.

Then someone said something and I remembered telling them that I didn't like porn and not to talk to me about it.

The next thing was Lezlie and Kurt kept standing in front of me telling me to chew my food or I would choke. I would check my mouth and sure enough food was in there, but I didn't remember putting it there. Shortly after they got me in bed and that was the end of that day.

A couple of days later, Kurt went outside to do something and I went into the bathroom with my new walker, leg brace, and sat down on my seat riser and thought about my new knee and it was then that the tears started rolling down my face and they lasted for weeks. All these new things meant that I had really gotten old.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Of finger-tip towels, salt cellars and seal cocks . . .

I'd like to end 2009 with a message to all the "know-it-alls" out there. Guess what? You don't!

Oh, maybe there is an Einstein wandering around Cheyenne County with all of the answers who I haven't met yet. Or maybe he or she was floating nearby when I was at college or living in a big city and I missed it. But chances are, no human has all of the knowledge that this big, beautiful world has to dole out.

I speak from experience. Concerning finger-tip towels; last week they came up in a conversation at the newspaper office. Always wondered what those decorative towels in the wash closet around the holidays were called. You know the ones you're not sure whether to use or not? Furthermore, finger bowls

are making a come-back too I hear. How about salt cellars? Early on, as I was writing *The Bird City Times*, a nice, elderly lady corrected me when I thought she meant salt shakers. No, these are the small containers that salt would sit in to be pinched out.

As for seal cocks, I learned what they were when I apprenticed for a plumber who was trying to drain the water from a house. As he stood

on the ladder and let out a colorful string of expletives, I wasn't going to stand around to find out that they were the spigots on the outside of the home and he wanted them open.

So, my advice for 2010 is to keep your eyes and ears open. Because there's much out there still to be learned.

GOD SAYS

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:1-2

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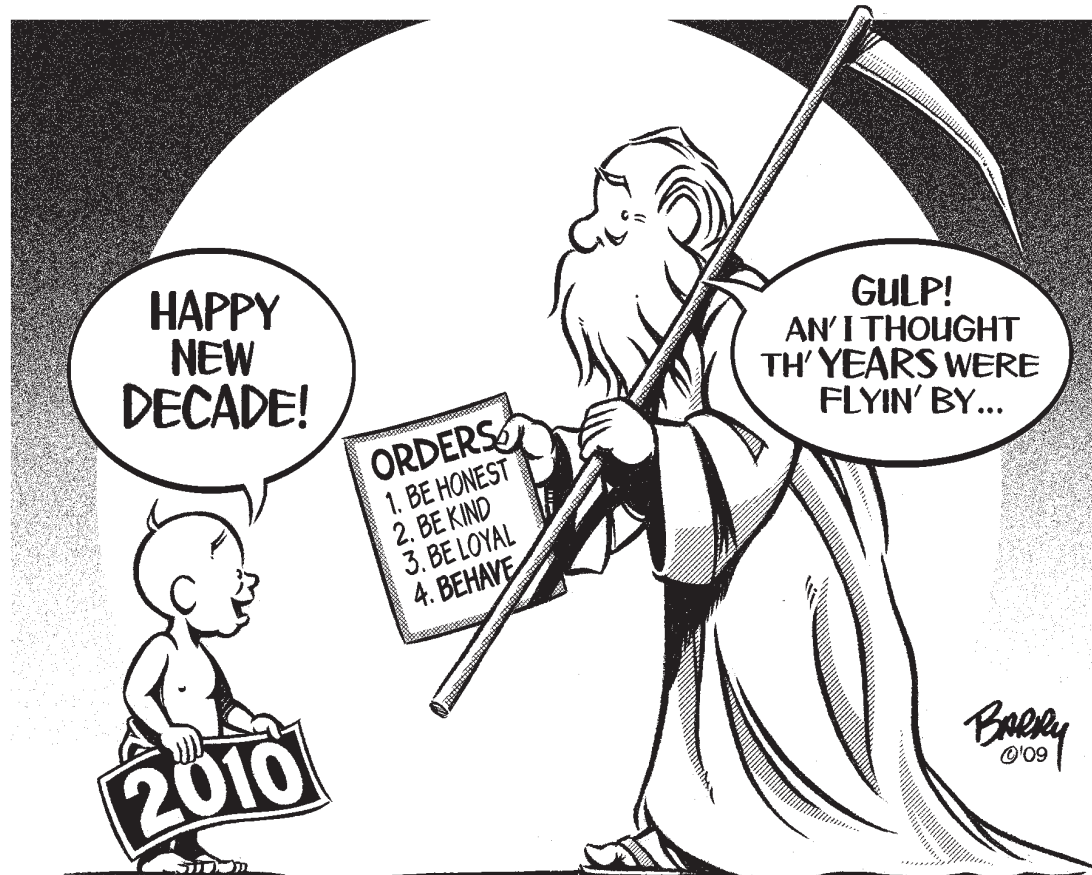
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News From the Past

100 years ago - 1909

H.B. Bear's has a fine stock of fir drop-siding, six inch flooring, white and yellow pine shiplap and white-pine boards now on hand.

Mrs. U.A. Rathburn sells pies, cookies, homemade bread, serves lunches and lets rooms at the old St. Francis Hotel.

Lawn Ridge township unloaded a fine new Austin road grader at St. Francis last week, which means improved highways in that township in the near future.

The total enrollment at the high school is now 33. The sophomores wish to joyfully announce that they are finishing the Helevetian War this week. Every battle has been

won, though a good deal of hard fighting was involved. The Zoology and Higher Physiology classes dissected a rabbit Monday.

The old frame school building belonging to School District No. 22, Cheyenne County, will be sold at public auction on Nov. 30.

There are 14 students enrolled in School District No. 39. Eleven of them are males.

There will be another of those popular balls given at the band hall on Saturday evening, Dec. 11. Everybody is invited.

B.G. Harrison presented his bride an elegant new piano on Friday.

The Ramblers held an execu-

tive meeting at the home of Mrs. Willits Wednesday. Mrs. Jeffers was elected to membership.

J.E. Uplingers commenced putting up ice Thursday morning. The ice is about 9 inches thick and of a fair quality.

90 years ago - 1919

William Baumeister was elected delegate by the local Farm Bureau, to attend the annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture at Topeka after the first of the year.

A carload of Dodge cars arrived at the Schneider garage this week. They were quickly gobbled up by the following purchasers: Norman Stuart, Will Gallagher, John Ramsey, Charles Amack and W.E. Utterback.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Jackie John, Phillipsburg; Mary Lou Murphy, Broomfield, Colo.; Forrest Crum, St. Francis; Ward Cassidy, St. Francis; Laura Pugh, St. Francis; David Nicklos, St. Francis; Alice Lampe, St. Francis; John Lampe, St. Francis; Ron Krien, St. Francis; Lee Amsberry, Bird City; Lee Russ, Junction City; Don Drummond, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Ben Andrist, St. Francis; Lynn Query, Bird City; Victor Zwegardt, St. Francis; Dorla Mae Rose, St. Francis; Ferdinand Krien, St. Francis; Dorothy Hankins, St. Francis; Reid Frohlich, Wichita; Coral Frohlich, Oxford; Bing Stinnette, St. Francis; Elaine Gerdes, Early, Iowa; Al Knodel, Kanorado; Eunice Townsend, Goodland; Vicki Callicrate, Scott City; Dale and Pat Crabtree, St. Francis; Don Topping, Springfield, Mo.; Uplinger Farms, Great Bend; Joe Hoffman,

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Praise the Lord

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

United Methodist Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Communion 3rd Sunday

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jerry Nowack
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Eve. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Communion 1st Sunday of the month

St. Francis Equity

St. Francis Herald