

## Not surprised that states collected more in 2004

It probably comes as no surprise that 49 states collected more from their taxpayers in 2004 than they had a decade earlier.

The only real surprise was that one state — Alaska — saw a decline of 1 percent, but don't mark Alaska down as thrifty, just rich. Most of the state budget comes from oil revenue and Alaska spends more per citizen at \$12,294 than any other state.

Kansas fell in the middle of the pack, 28th in per capita state taxes at \$1,933 per person, up about \$500 for the decade. Neighboring Colorado, on the other hand, is in the bottom five in collections per taxpayer.

Colorado is one of the few states with strict constitutional limits on state and local spending. Kansas, having abandoned its tax lid law, has none, and it shows.

State tax rates have been frozen in recent years, but spending keeps on going up. With conservatives losing ground in the Legislature this year, there's great pressure to raise taxes and spend even more.

Increases for schools and just to keep the state running have taken every extra cent Kansas brings in. Schools, colleges and other programs say they need more.

In Colorado, by contrast, officials had to get voter approval just to keep the "extra" money that came in when the economy warmed up.

In Kansas, property taxes on homes now are

roughly double those in Colorado, despite years of "tax relief" efforts in Topeka. City and county governments, even those that try to be careful, just keep raising the levies.

And the Kansas economy is not growing, possibly because of the high tax burden here compared to surrounding states.

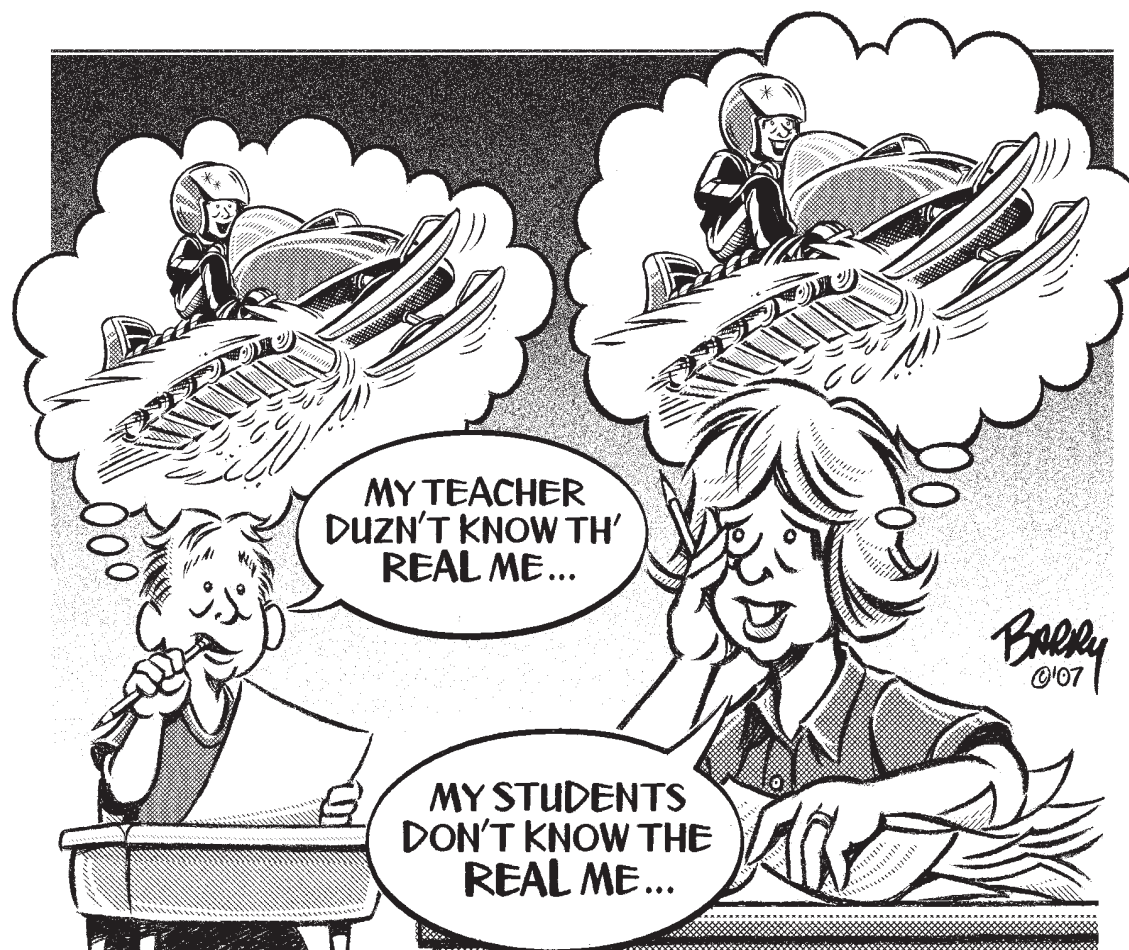
In Kansas, only the government is growing. A state report last month showed just 6,000 new jobs created in the state over the past year, all in state and local government. Private nonfarm employers actually cut 2,400 jobs over that period.

It doesn't take an economic genius to see that this can't continue. Fewer working taxpayers can't be asked to support an ever-growing government apparatus.

That's apparently what our leaders believe, however. They keep hiring people and raising public salaries, raising taxes and squeezing more out of the long-suffering middle class.

Around here, for instance, the City of Goodland plans to cut taxes slightly but give its workers raises averaging 5 percent and boosted spending by 8.5 percent when property valuation rose. That in a time when most private employers can't manage any raises at all.

You'd think someone would complain. Maybe someone will, but until taxpayers rise up in revolt, taxes and spending are bound to keep on going up. And up. And up. — Steve Haynes



## News From the Past

### 5 years ago - 2002

At the Dec. 18, St. Francis City Council meeting, the council voted unanimously to hire J.R. Landenberger as the new city superintendent.

The last of the original Good Samaritan Village has come down. After the flood of 1935, the Bureau of Reclamation began building dams along the Republican River. One of those dams was Bonny Dam, 25 miles from St. Francis. There needed to be housing for the workers on the dam so the government built housing units where the Good Samaritan Village now sits and named the area Bonnyville. In 1952, the housing project was declared "surplus property" by the federal government and was put up for sale. The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society purchased the units, with the purpose of establishing a Christian Home for the aged.

Scott Wiley reported that he has sold Wiley's Apothecary, St. Francis, to Kody and Penny Krien. They will be taking over the business on March 4.

Seven Scouts from St. Francis, Tyler Finley, Arden Schneider, Tyler Larson, Chase Barnhart, Matt Whitmore, Jacob Riedel and

Terrence Lamb, attended the Klondike Derby in Colby.

### 25 years ago - 1982

Three St. Francis men announced their retirement at the end of 1981. Van Burrus and Lawrence Hilt retired from Tri-State Lumber and Ken Holliman retired from Krueger's Mens Wear. Burrus sold his interest in Tri-State Lumber to partner Milton Lampe who now assumes full ownership. Hilt has been employed at Tri-State Lumber since February 1968, working in the lumber yard and office. Holliman ended his career on Main Street after more than 50 years in the clothing business in St. Francis. He started on Main Street at the Thompson and Jeffers Drug Store in the fall of 1928 while still in high school, moving to Boardman's Toggery and then to Krueger's Mens Wear.

The Bird City theme for Kansas Day this year is "Schools and Yester-years." Maynard Oretgren is the new Chamber of Commerce president with Mary Bier being the outgoing president.

Mary Lee Frewen and Kelly Frewen will move the Frewen Insurance Agency into its new quarters in February. The new brick-faced building is located between the city office and Cooper's Barber Shop.

### 45 years ago - 1962

August Zweggardt, commissioner from the second district, was named chairman of the Cheyenne County board of commissioners at their annual organizational meeting. Other commissioners are M.M. Erickson and C.E. Jones.

Kenneth Roberson is the newly elected president of the Cheyenne County Wheat Producers Inc. Ralph Gilliland is the retiring president.

Bids have been accepted for the construction of a new church building in St. Francis for the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The Reverend Roger Withee is the pastor.

Doctor C.W. Wilson announced this week that he is leaving St. Francis to go into practice at LaCrosse. He opened his practice in St. Francis 14 1/2 years ago. Dr. Wilson devoted many hours to the St. Francis Scouting program.

An inventory of existing buildings which offer protection from radioactive fallout is scheduled to get underway in Cheyenne County. The study is part of President Kennedy's fallout shelter survey program.

## Hangin' With Marge

Winter

By Margaret Bucholtz



At the last Historical Society meeting the roll call was "What is your favorite winter memory?" I have to say as a younger person it was ice skating on the river and sledding.

Yes, I am one of those people who love winter. I have always said you can add more clothes to keep warm than the law will allow you to take off when you are hot!

After the first snow in December, Kurt and I were in town getting our groceries for a late family Christmas. When we were done, Kurt then took me by the arm and headed to the hardware

store. There he bought me a new set of coveralls, a new ski mask and a new pair of warm gloves.

We loaded back in the pickup and then off we went to the mill. Once again he opened my door and led me in. There he bought me a neat pair of insulated boots.

I kind of wondered what he had in mind for me to do, but I didn't ask. I just figured he was getting me geared up so I could scoop some more snow.

When we got home, he told me to go in and get dressed — we were going sledding.

It was a wonderful surprise and I gingerly got all dressed up and off to the hills in the pasture we went.

I was the first one on the bright colored saucer sled. That is when I realized that some things had changed since the last time I went sledding — like getting my legs bent around to sit on the sled and

not having parts hanging over in the snow. After a lot of tucking and prying I was set to go. Off I went — the saucer turning and spinning and then the stop. Oh what fun it was until I had to try to carry the sled and my overstuffed body back up the hill. From the top, it sure didn't look that far down.

Then it was Kurt's turn. Watching him fold up and try to get back to the top, I realized that age was getting to him also.

We each took two turns going down and then we got in the jeep and headed back to the house. I am sure 50 years ago we could have spent the same amount of time but had made many more trips. Sledding may be for the young, but we will go again.

We might be slow, but we sure had fun.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions; Ed Kite, Eudora; Monica Geocaris, Wilmette, Ill.; Kent Kechter, St. Francis; Grace Zweggardt, St. Francis; Jack Rieb, St. Francis; Mark Rieb, Watertown, S.D.; Amanda L'Heureux, St. Francis; Amy Goossen, Montezuma; Patricia Ferguson, Brush, Colo.; Lonnie Willis, Bird City; Gerri McCurry, St. Francis; Bill Keller, Pratt; Delphine Norton, Apache Junction, Ariz.; Kenneth Potthoff, St. Francis; Lucille Price, St. Francis; Jack Maupin, Haigler, Neb.; Ken Roberson, St. Francis; Diane Roberson, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Howard Poulignot, St. Francis; Stacie Wenzl, Phillipsburg; Kendra Hoffman, Bison; Al Knodel, Kanorado; Abby Burr, Denver, Colo.; Victor Zweggardt, St. Francis; Marvin Walz, St. Francis; Tom Smull, St. Francis; Jack Ford, St. Francis; Sharon Kamla, Nevada, Mo.; Mark Cooper, St. Francis; Marv and Judy bishop, Hermosa, S.D.; Rodney Bracelin, St. Francis; Travis Milne, St. Francis; Debby Harper, St. Francis; John Abendschan, St. Francis; Rachel Huffman, St. Francis; Arlene Billington, Atwood; Mike Bandel, St. Francis; Ben Andrist, St. Francis; Jim Keller, Malden, Mass.

## Ambulance director corrects number of runs

Letter to the editor. I would like to take this opportunity to make a correction to the commissioners article. Last week the paper stated that the ambulance service had 100 runs in St. Francis and 48 in Bird City. The truth is that St. Francis had a total of 210 runs

### -Letter to the Editor-

and Bird City had 92 runs. That is a total of 302 runs for the year 2006 which is 70 more than we had the previous year, 2005.

Jannelle Bowers  
Bird City

**GOD SAYS**  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destr oy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lor d.  
Isaiah 65:25

## The Saint Francis Herald

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## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



I'd like to meet this El Nino guy. I know he lives somewhere down south but it's hard to figure out when he's going to show up. Luckily he is around this winter.

While folks to the north and east of us are in a panic over "global warming," we've had four week-ends in a row of snow.

After several years of drought conditions the white stuff spells re-

lief. It truly is a godsend for our farmers and ranchers. Looking out on fields blanketed with deep layers of snow makes it easy to imagine how green they will be this spring.

Of course a lot of people around here have trouble seeing a gift when they get it. They are inconvenienced by the snow-packed side streets and ice on sidewalks. I guess El Nino isn't a perfect guy.

But for the ranchers who are still out in the bitter cold calving and feeding the animals, you won't hear a complaint. They know El Nino has provided grass for his cows and horses.

Thanks El Nino, where ever you are!

**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.

**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.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**First Christian Church**  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.  
Church Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Grace Assembly of God**  
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899  
208 E. 2nd  
Rev. Rob Meyer  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30  
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

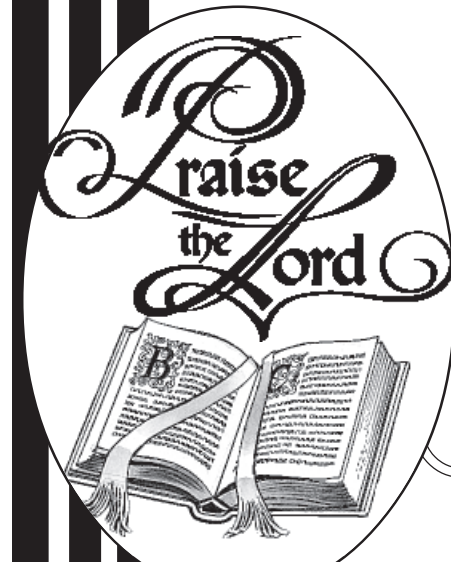
**St. Francis Community Church**  
332-3150  
204 N. Quincy Street  
Pastor: David Butler  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor Mike Larson  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

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

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
202 N. College  
Pastor Ken Hart  
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Clough Valley Church of Hope**  
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF  
Pastor Jason Howard  
332-3152  
Saturdays 8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT



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