



Lawmakers frustrated with growth in budget

Full-time Legislature. There. That ought to scare the pants off of most Kansans. If it doesn't, it should. As a group, if the legislators can't make a mess out of things in 90 days, how could we expect more in a full year? Minus time off for campaigns, of course. Yet, faced with the growing complexity of the state budget, some members are talking about extending their time in Topeka. It's like a group of convicts getting together to extend their sentences. Are we sure we're ready for that? There's the old saw, purportedly written by a New York judge: "No man's life, liberty or property are safe while the legislature is in session." Conservative Kansas lawmakers are frustrated by continued growth in the state budget, though. The budget has grown by a factor of 10 every generation since the state was founded. Still, the Associated Press reported, the budget didn't hit \$1 billion until 1974. It has doubled since 1993, when it was just \$6 billion. Last week, House members revolted when asked to pass a \$304 million supplemental appropriation. Some claimed it would run state surpluses below the required 7.5 percent and threaten a cash crisis. With spending already near \$12.5 billion and growth in the general fund estimated at more than 8 percent, killing the supplemental seems largely like closing the barn door after all the livestock have fled. That's what bothers the anti-spenders. They feel helpless dealing with a budget that's too big and too complex to control. Mostly, the Legislature just takes what the governor has sent over and

quibbles about a few programs. Only the appropriations committees see the whole picture, if anyone does. Adding time to the session won't help much, not when most major decisions are put off until the late hours of the last few nights. Budget bills are cobbled together in conference, then rolled out for the troops, tired and ready to go home, for a vote. At that point, a lot of real bad legislation gets pushed through, but especially the big spending bills which wrap up the budget. Sure, they've been debated and examined since January, but when the whole ball of wax rolls out the final week, no one — save maybe a few conference members and some lobbyists — really knows what's in there. That's one big reason the jackpot keeps growing at roughly 8 percent every year. A lot of other bad bills come about that time — witness the one legalizing casino gambling this year, supposedly to raise revenue for still more state spending. The Legislature should have a rule that no bill can come to the floor without full and open committee hearings, but we digress. The issue here is spending. What the Legislature should do is set a spending limit and trim the budget to fit that. Every program has its friends, though, making real cuts real tough. What the Legislature probably will do is extend the session, study more and keep voting for bigger budgets every year. Legislators talk about working "to curb the growth in spending." No one talks about cutting the budget. And guess who gets to pay the bills? — Steve Haynes.



News From the Past

10 years ago - 1997
The Reverend Dennis Livingston will become pastor of the St. Francis United Methodist Church in late June. The *Saint Francis Herald* has opened its own ramp to the information superhighway with nwkansan.com Internet access coming "on line" this week. Members of the Cheyenne County Fair Board talked seriously about building a grandstand at the fairgrounds when they held their monthly meeting. Rose Mary Bierig has opened Rosie's Sweet Shoppe on St. Francis Main Street just east of the post office in the old Silhouette building. Mark Willey has been named The Hays Daily News all-area boys basketball coach of the year for taking the St. Francis boys team to the state tournament for the first time ever.

40 years ago - 1967
B.H. Kehmeier took the controls of a front-end loader to break ground for the construction of the new Citizens State Bank building. Lester Walker, an eighth grader in the St. Francis schools won the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee. Thirty-nine boys reported for track practice with only four of them, Terry Cahoj, Mike Hawkins, Pat Holliman and Brian Scoby, being seniors. Officers of the newly formed Booster Club include Jim Frewen, president; Kenny Holliman, vice president; Mrs. Ted Wolters, secretary/treasurer and Mrs. Ben Andrist, Robert Keller and Wendell Kite, directors. Darrell Busby has been recommended to receive the State Farmer Degree. The FFA House of Delegates will take the final action on the recommendation. Superintendent Carl Sperry has announced that there have been just six resignations from the school system faculty this year. They include Miss Charlotte Olsen, Miss Doris Finch, John Neyer, Clark Lacy, Mrs. John Neyer and Miss Schoen. Steve Miller and Rita Canniff have been chosen to represent the St. Francis Lions Club in the State Lions Band.

50 years ago - 1957
Postmaster Bion J. Reynolds has said the St. Francis post office has received notification to close the post office to the public on Saturdays and Sundays beginning April 15. It also cuts out all rural delivery service on Saturday except special delivery messenger service. This cutback in service will possibly last until the Postal Department gets additional funds from Congress. Grand Lodge members and other members of the Masonic Order from across Kansas assembled in St. Francis to participate in the laying of the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple. **75 years ago - 1932**
The various clubs of the city sponsored a tree-planting program on Tuesday. The trees were set in the St. Francis Cemetery and a row was set each side of the driveway north and south in the cemetery and a row on the each side of the wide street east and west. Fritz Indorf, son of George Indorf has taken over the Beatrice cream station and St. Francis and starting in by having the front of the building repaired and a new porch built. **90 years ago - 1917**
The M. E. Conference assigned Rev. M.R. Starbuck to St. Francis. The dedication of the new church here has been set for May 13. Results of the of the city election show J.E. Uplinger, mayor; R.M. Jaqua, George Williams, Dr. W.W. Eckelman, Harry Scoby and Louis Mason; councilmen and Chase Day, police judge. There are now more than 600 automobile licenses out in Cheyenne County, more than double the number one year ago. Notice to the public: All swine must be removed from the city limits and all manure piles removed from the city by May 1. By order of the Health Board, signed B.F. Jeffers, secretary. C.F. Kellner will soon commence the erection of a cement block house on the farm recently purchased from Schillers. Last Wednesday the board let the contract for the new high school building and work will be commenced at once on the 10-acre site at the east end of main street. The contact was awarded at \$18,200 but a change in view may bring it up to \$18,500. The board has allowed room enough for an athletic field.

Casey's Comments



When I experienced my recent hospital stay, I noticed something about the branch of the building I was in: Intensive Care. The nurses were caring, friendly and they worked their tails off. But it seemed they had a barrier, or a wall, that separated them emotionally from their work. I soon learned why. Two doors down from me was an old friend. Dick Boswell of Bird City was also a patient there. Neither one of us was well enough to visit, but through his wife and daughter, Gwen and Stephanie, my family and I knew he was there. Let me tell you a little about Dick. He grew up in Bird City and played on the 1954 football team that went unscored on and undefeated to a state championship. After high school he joined the Marine Corps and served bravely in Vietnam. I met Dick when I moved to Bird City five years ago. At first he looked like a big walrus with a questionable disposition. But then a smile would grow and Dick would laugh. One of my fondest memories will be of him at the Thresher Show. Dick would wear his Marine dress uniform and the kids would gather around to ask him questions. General Douglas MacArthur once said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." I don't see that for Dick. His memory will not fade.

Lines from the Library

By Pat Leibbrandt
The following new books have arrived at the library: *Step On a Crack* by James Patterson; *The Alibi Man* by Tammi Hoag; *More*

Honor Roll
New and renewed Herald subscription: Wilhelm Lippert, Idalia, Colo.; Wm. C. Terry, St. Francis; SS Enterprises, Imperial, Neb.; Sheryl Papas, Mesa, Ariz.; Chris Bracelin, St. Francis; Velda Smith, Goodland; Tina Elliott, St. Francis; Emma Hopp, Bird City; Scott Northrup, St. Francis; David Straub, St. Francis; Phillip Krien, Parker, Colo.; Eddie Dankenbring, Custer, S.D.; J. Greg Kite, Wichita; Edie Howard, Mission; Ron O'Leary, Topeka; Tim Schmid, St. Francis; Laura Lea Harwood, Lawrence; R.A. Fornelli, Carlsbad, Calif.; Bill Keller, Pratt; Richard Keller, Citrus Heights, Calif.; Jerry and Susan Pierce, El Cajon, Calif.; Royce Walz, Topeka; Bill Smull, Tacoma, Wash.; Lawrence Crites, Idalia, Colo.; Farm Bureau, St. Francis; Bradley Water, Bird City; Lyle Lukas, Benkelman.

Plums In One by Janet Evanovich; *I Heard That Song Before* by Mary Higgins Clark; *The Dead Room* by Heather Graham; *Absolute Fear* by Lisa Jackson; *White Chocolate Moments* by Lori Wick; *Obsession* by Karen Robads; *Never Too Late* by Michael Phillips; *Hot Stuff* by Janet Evanovich; *People Of The Nightland* by Michael Gear; *The Measure Of A Man* by Sidney Poitier; *Mother Teresa, In My Own Words*; *Prompt* by Elmore Leonard; *Natural Born Charmer* by Susan E. Phillips; *The Hornets Nest* by Jimmy Carter. The following new books have arrived in the children's department: *The Birthday Dance* by Alison Inches; *Charlotte's Web - New In The Barn* by Cathy Hapka; *Charlotte's Web - The Perfect Word* by Cathy Hapka; *Charlotte's Web - Wilbur's Prize* by Jennifer Frantz; *Charlotte's Web - Wilbur Finds A Friend* by Jennifer Frantz; *Puppy Mudge Wants To Play* by Cynthia Rylant; *Curious George And The Kite* by Monica Perez; *Curious George And The Dog Show* by Monica Perez; *Curious George And The Donut Delivery* by Monica Perez; *Curious George Builds A Home* by Monica Perez; *Rescue Patrol* by Catherine Lukas; and *Dora's Sleepover* by Lara Bergen.

GOD SAYS

The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

Proverbs 18:14

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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.

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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