



Despite lofty arguments earmarks can be helpful

Well, so much for doing away with earmarks, the convoluted system by which congressmen and senators slip money for their districts into the bowels of government spending bills.

Despite lofty arguments, and demands from many citizens, the Senate voted 71-29 to kill a bill which would have banned the practice. After that vote, Speaker Nancy Pelosi saw the light and quietly shelved plans for House action.

Last year, members of Congress gave out \$18 billion in this pork, ensuring their own popularity back home. One problem is the same voters who say they're offended by this kind of spending often demand it.

As with many things in public life, your view of earmarks may depend on whether your ox is being gored. Everyone decries "wasteful" spending in someone else's home town.

Thus, conservative Oberlin voters might laugh at the infamous "Bridge to Nowhere" in Alaska, serving an island with 51 residents, while in the same breath praising a member who would write an earmark to build a new airport runway.

Many earmarks, in fact, support worthy projects. It's the system of uncontrolled spending, where any individual member can spend millions with little or no review, that bothers us.

Oberlin's airport project, for instance, has a lot of state and federal support, but it could take several years to get the \$5 million or more needed for the job following normal procedures.

An earmark could get it done in a year.

With uncontrolled earmarks, though, there's no

guarantee that every project is worthy. Far from it.

Part of the problem is that in Congress, you can attach any law to any bill. There's no requirement that amendments be "germane" to the main bill.

Thus, a civil rights change can be slipped into a defense bill, bypassing committee hearings and public scrutiny and a possible presidential veto. Spending measures, like earmarks, can be put in any appropriations bill without scrutiny — and without veto.

Another problem is that, unlike many state governors, a president has no power to pick out parts of a bill to block. This so-called "line-item veto" for spending bills could quickly end earmark abuse, but Congress isn't about to reduce its own power by giving some to the president.

In this case, though, it'd be a good idea. The line-item veto could shave billions off the federal deficit.

But we've already seen that our congressmen and senators value their spending power — and the magic it gives them at election time — far more than they value fiscal sanity.

The system in Washington depends on spending and more spending to keep incumbents comfortably in power. Until we, the people, demand change, it won't happen.

And unless we refuse to be bought off with earmarks, we can't have the change we should be shouting for.

Or should we wait until we get that runway-built?

Steve Haynes

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



Sunday was Casey birthday so I invited the family for lunch. Now Casey isn't one to ask for much but he did ask that I make him an angel food cake with seven-minute frosting.

On Saturday I mixed up the cake and put it in the oven. Just as I shut the oven door Kurt asked me to help him a minute which I did. Of course I forgot the cake in the oven but I did remember the cake just in time. When I went in to check on it I decided that it needed to bake a little longer. Five minutes had passed and I knew it had to be done. I turned it upside down on a bottle and as I turned around I noticed something move out of the corner of my eye. Sure enough the top half of the cake had fallen onto the counter.

I went back outside and a few minutes later when I came in the

whole cake was on the counter in a heap.

I ate part of it and Lexi came out and she ate some of it so there was a little over half of the flat, fallen cake left.

The next morning I baked another one and it stayed in the pan. When I got the seven-minute frosting on it there was some left over so I frosted the fallen cake also.

Lexi helped me and we put all 48 candles on the half of cake and set it on the table for our center piece. I hid the other one in the back bedroom and we were ready for Casey to get there. He just looked at this cake with candles on the top, sides and ends and said, "It is good enough for me. I told him that we had called in for a controlled burn for when we lit the candles.

Then just as I took that first

mouthful of lunch, the telephone rang and I got up to answer it. The person on the other end of the line started her speech. You all know the kind: "I really hate to bother you on a Sunday afternoon, but we all know how important Breast Cancer awareness is." It was at that point I laid the phone down, still turned on, and started singing Happy Birthday.

Everyone else just stared at me. I thought they would at least join in, but oh no, they just looked at me with that shocked look.

When the song, or solo, was done I picked the phone back up. Funny thing — she had hung up. Guess she didn't like my voice either!

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



Life is a journey. Sometimes along that journey something new is found. Or a new experience can occur when something old is found.

Last Sunday I went for a drive in the country with my wife and her folks, Kurt and Margaret Bucholtz. They took me to see Horse Thief Cave.

Story has it that the cave had two rooms. The back was large

enough to hide up to six horses. The front room allowed space for the "hombres" to bunk down and use as a kitchen.

The entrance was covered by a board door and there was an escape hole out of the rear.

A picture of the cave is printed in E.S. Sutton's book, *Sutton's Southwest Nebraska* (1983.) He states that the cave was last used before 1890.

Horse Thief Cave is located in

Cheyenne County, just south of the Nebraska state line. There is a round marker identifying the location along Road 17 just north of Road DD.

Standing down in the ravine your imagination can really run. It is easy to picture the masked bandits herding their stolen ponies into the cave as a posse rides the high ground, looking in vain.

The northwest corner of Kansas can't be beat for its rich history. Whether it is learning more about the prehistoric, nomadic, native people, tracing Custer's trail as he pursued renegade Indians or seeing where Lindbergh liked to barnstorm, this place has countless stories to tell.

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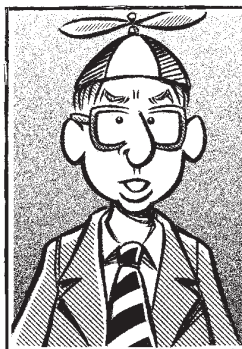
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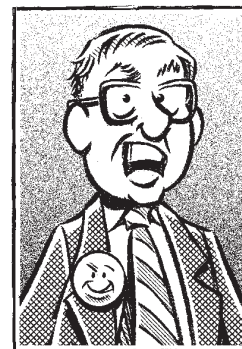
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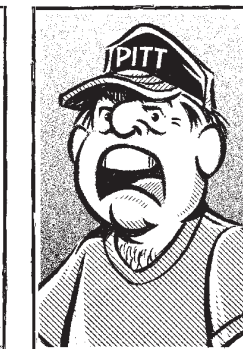
BUREAUCRAT
"He's wrong—and everyone knows it!"



T.V. PUNDIT
"He's wrong—and the 24/7 news cycle shows it!"



RIVAL POL
"He's wrong—and my campaign glows in it!"



JOBLESS VOTER
"Dang right I'm BITTER!!!"

Reader gives update on his wife

Editor's note: The following letter was written by Lavern Boll to let people know what happened to his wife, Donna, and how they are now getting along.

To the Herald and all others: The Boll place in March.

March came in like a lion — it had its claws and fangs extended (to my thinking)! Donna became very ill. This started about 6 in the morning. After much maneuvering, I finally called 911 at 10:30. EMTs came very quick. They were terrific professional people (should be paid more). I forgot their names. They are good. I guess I had other things on my mind.

Donna was rushed to the Cheyenne County Hospital. Patrick and staff were there to answer our problems (they are the best). Patrick immediately called Flight For Life. Finally, at 6 p.m. we were at Swedish Hospital. I'll never understand why it took this long. Never will! The hospital needs to get connected with helicopter services — It's quicker.

After arriving at Swedish, the receiving doctor at the emergency room said, "if you had waited another day, we would have had trouble saving your wife's life." My heart was going 95+. Boy! Does that wake one up and gets your attention!

Swedish Hospital has very little knowledge of sleep apnea (a condition that Donna has to live with). Donna's problem was diagnosed as pneumonia. She had only 30-percent usage of her lungs — it was very critical. She was also diagnosed with anemia.

The sleep mask they tried did not conform to her facial features. She wanted her own mask.

Lyle, Darrel (our sons) and I came home on Sunday, March 2, for her mask. Sunday was a ground blizzard. We ended up in the ditch after some yo yo cut us off on an ice-packed road. His

Letters to the Editor

AWD vehicle pulled right out of the ditch onto U.S. 36. We made some unnecessary remarks. I-70 was closed because the hotels were full. We picked up Donna's mask and headed back to Swedish and there were no problems with the road. We also picked up clothes for Donna (I forgot mine.)

From here on, she had the best care possible with the exception for the sleep apnea care. Doctors, staff, everyone was super. All of our children were a great help. They were priceless. The good Lord did his part really well — I'll give him 10 A's plus my everlasting thanks. Everyone must believe in the Lord and I'm not preaching — It's a fact.

We brought Donna home on Thursday, March 6. We are so

very blessed.

All of our children wanted to come home and help. Dana, our eldest, had the most free time. She chose to come home with us. She was such a great helper but we would have received the same from any of our children.

However, she can do anything really quick. Dana stayed as long as necessary, helping plan our diets, our exercise, work and everything that was needed. You know, when you are doing something to help others and you love doing it — that's not work — that's a blessing.

It is now April. March closed out like a lamb. Things at the Boll place are getting back to normal (whatever that is).

Lavern Boll
St. Francis

Gardener shares tips on keeping out rabbits

Dear gardeners of Cheyenne County,

Do you want to keep rabbits out of your garden? The easiest thing to do is buy a four-pack of dusty miller plants and put them around your garden. Rabbits won't come near it!

The first year I had a garden up north, rabbits took out my broccoli, cauliflower, carrots and my

climbing beans as high as they could reach. After a friend put me wise to dusty miller, I haven't had a rabbit in the garden since.

I've heard lavender will do the same thing, plus keep out the deer, but I haven't put it to the test.

Good luck and have fun!

Karen Hart
St. Francis

GOD SAYS

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Psalms 121:1-3

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 10:30 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.
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.

United Methodist Church
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: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

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.

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.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.

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

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