



National debt will grow with either candidate

One thing that seems certain, no matter who becomes president, is that the national debt will continue to grow over the next couple of years.

That's a frightening prospect, with the debt now estimated at \$10.3 trillion and growing at a rate of \$3.45 billion a day. That's nearly \$34,000 for each American, man, woman and child — and growing at more than \$11 a day.

While both major parties will give lip service to balancing the federal budget, the deficit for this year is estimated at \$438 billion. That's likely to grow next year for a couple of reasons.

One, the Democrats will have control, maybe even "veto-proof" control, of the House and Senate. The temptation to pass pet spending bills and "economic relief" projects will be just too much to resist.

And two, both parties will be running scared of the economy. They will pass any bill aimed at rescuing us from disaster, whatever it takes. And witness the recent bailout bill, which grew from \$400 billion the government didn't have to nearly \$600 billion the government didn't have.

A round of vetoes isn't likely. Neither Sen. John McCain or Sen. Barack Obama will veto any spending bills next year. Priorities in Washington favor spending over thrift, since spending for a member's own state or district, or for a member's backers, is what earns approval and keeps congressmen in office.

Many go to Washington with a fine set of ideals, but few can resist the allure of spending, either pork-barrel project for the home folks or big programs to rescue the economy, help the poor and the downtrodden — or corporate America.

Spending is the quickest route to a campaign war chest these days, and for most congressmen, stay-

ing in Washington becomes the main, sometimes the only, goal.

Money is the fuel that corrupts the system, and it gets worse every year. It's not likely to change soon.

For one thing, few in Washington see a problem. Members' interest is mostly in staying there, not in reforming the system.

Until Americans wake up and realize what we are doing to ourselves, that won't change. Until we give the president a line-item veto so he or she can excise the worst spending excesses, Congress will keep passing bills loaded with pork, using untouchable "earmarks" to get money for everything from bridges to corporate tax breaks.

Until we start caring about the deficit and the debt, Congress will assume things are just fine. It would be easy to argue that at \$10 trillion, the debt is so huge it's beyond our comprehension already.

But in tough economic times, the lure of pumping up the economy may trump fiscal responsibility anyway. Who's going to vote against a better economy?

This nation is digging its own grave. We're spending our grandchildren's income and our great-grandchildren's while borrowing to finance our need for foreign oil. We're sending what's left of our wealth and our jobs abroad to fill SUVs and run air conditioners.

It's not just Congress that's bought into this corrupt and debilitating system. It's all of us. And until the American people demand better, things are liable to continue this way.

There's little to show that who wins and who loses in next month's elections will make much difference in what happens, for neither party has an answer or a plan.

Steve Haynes



News From the Past

20 years ago - 1988

Members of the St. Francis Recreation Commission Board include Tim Burr, Glenn Milliken, Aimee Cress and Tina Schliep, Nancy Schultz, Sandy Smull and Kay Shay, director.

There is a new scoreboard at the football field.

Volleyball letter winners include Jen Dankenbring, Kari Milliken, Aimee Cress and Tina Yost. Volleyball cheerleaders include Colleen Brown, Angie Zimbelman and Canda Dankenbring.

30 years ago - 1978

Those attending Boy Scout camp during the summer were Bradley Merklin, Wesley Sherman, Troy Gardner, Allen

Jones, Billy Morris, Paul Krueger, Stacey Edmundson, John Love, Dennis Vandike, Danny Penton, Martin Hilt, Mitchell Hilt, Jeff Hilt, Daniel Follett and Mike Sherlock.

Allan Wahrman, Doug Ross, Darrell Vandike and Terry O'Leary participated in the National Kids Wrestling tournament held in Boulder, Colo.

Larry Gabel, head coach of the St. Francis Indian wrestling team, has been named 2-1A Wrestling Coach of the Year.

Michael Flemming has been named by the Good Samaritan Society to the administrator's post at the Cheyenne County Good Samaritan Village. He

succeeds Ted Davies.

Dottie Lewis, owner of Hers Drive-In, is purchasing the Mobile Service Station and the land under both the station and the drive-in from Bud Ewing. She will sell or lease the station.

Two Cheyenne County 4-H'ers earned an experience of a lifetime from July 24 to Aug. 25, in Japan. Kristie Lamb and Dawn Wright participated in the LABO Exchange Program.



Hangin' With Marge

Another senior moment

By Margaret Bucholtz



margeb@cityofstfrancis.net
This morning was another one of those days of being embarrassed.

Yesterday I told my brother that there was a cow out on the road and it might be his. He said he would be out today and look at it.

This morning the cow was right by our house so I called him and told him where it was and he might want to check it out. He said he would be right out.

Now knowing my brother was going to be here you would have thought I would have gotten dressed, but I figured I had

enough time to finish what I was doing. So I just came back downstairs and finished the little project I had started.

In just a few minutes there was a knock on the door and I, in my nightgown, knowing it was just my brother, ran upstairs and answered the door.

To my shock and I am sure the shock of the nice man standing at my door, I suddenly realized it was a man from the oil rig.

I apologized for being in my nightgown and he was very polite and said, "That's OK, I just wondered if you knew there was

a cow out." I told him I did and my brother was coming to see if it was his.

When I shut the door, I looked down at my nightgown and noticed a big spot of chocolate that I had dripped on it a couple of days ago.

I bet that poor man is still wondering what I had on the front of me. I really was sorry, but I love my nightgown and it is what I live in when I am at home.

Casey's Comment

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkansan.com
Just about everyone in this area has an opinion on the proposed gym in St. Francis. Since I'm allowed a little space each week in this paper I'll use it for mine.

I see the building as an investment in the future of Cheyenne County.

Is it a risk? Yes. Is the future uncertain? Yes. But those questions are a part of life.

We have a choice to make. Should the voters of St. Francis say "no" to the project and do nothing or take a chance on what would be a good addition to their town?

When I first moved to Bird City, and later St. Francis, there was a center piece to each town. It is the school. Working at the newspaper for each place, the most important entity to report on is the centers of learning.

And people from other areas look at our schools to see what our towns are about.

Like many voters who don't have children or whose kids are older, the new building will not affect their household directly, other than a small increase in taxes. My children will no longer be in the school system to benefit from the new gym.

But future generations will be here and it will be used.

Is the risk of building a new addition for the St. Francis school worth investing in the future of this area? My vote will be in the affirmative.

GOD SAYS
If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?
John 3:12

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(785) 332-3162 Fax - (785) 332-3001
E-mail - sfherald@nwkansan.com

STAFF

Karen Krien Editor/Publisher
Betty Winston Sports Editor
Casey McCormick Advertising Manager
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Margaret Bucholtz Columnist

Reader encouraged by optimism

Dear Editor:

There has been much said about the state of rural life everywhere, but especially in northwest Kansas. The declining populations, the struggles in agriculture, keeping the young families, fighting against the Walmart's of the world to keep our main streets alive. It paints a dismal picture at best. But I have been encouraged by those who choose to see the glass half full instead of half empty. Those who bring optimism to the table.

We are on the threshold of a burgeoning new industry in our area - energy. It may very well become a strong part of our economy within the next decade. It may change the face of western Kansas as it did Texas back in the days where the oil drillers fought the ranchers. This new industry doesn't come in the shape of a new dairy or a shiny factory, so it is harder to see. But it is real and has every opportunity of bringing new life to our economic base. And as this industry finds its place, there will be com-

munities everywhere in direct competition with us to invite the labor force that will accompany this industry to come live in their communities. How do we compete? What outfit will we wear for our big interview?

We have to be prepared to show ourselves as the vibrant, well kept, progressive town that we are. This shows up in the optimism of everyone who says "I am going to have a business on Main, or US 36, or anywhere else they can hang out their sign." It is in the optimism of seeing a new house being built in town. It is in the beauty of what we have brought to our town in the attrac-

tive Main Street. All these things raise the chorus: "We are here to stay - come join us!"

That's the paradox about people in general. It is the easiest thing in the world to be negative, but we all want to be around the person who is positive. And when a labor force is out looking for where to lay down roots, it is the positive and progressive setting that will draw the crowds.

I hate to see that optimism ever leave us as a community. Because then we will become what the nay sayers claim - a dying town.

Mary Beth Miller
St. Francis

Letter to the Editor

Honor Roll

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Don Kramer, St. Francis; Chris Loyd, Spring, Texas; John Walz, St. Francis; Verlene Kunz, Garden City; Keith Kehmeier, Hamilton, Mont.; St. Francis Grade School; Ryan Weeks, Wamego.

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
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 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

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

St. Francis Equity

St. Francis Herald

nwkansas.com
P.O. Box 1050 • St. Francis
785-332-3162
sfherald@nwkansan.com

