



State expects a deficit close to \$147 million

Kansas legislators face unpleasant choices when they go to work next month.

The state expects a deficit approaching \$147 million this year, with the number likely to top \$1 billion in the next fiscal year when it ends June 30, 2010.

That's without drastic cuts, of course, but the state Constitution does not allow the government to run a deficit. The so-called "cash basis" law requires the state to end the year in the black.

The last time this happened, the Legislature "solved" the problem mostly with smoke and mirrors. It shifted funds, changed tax-payment dates and shuffled things around. The result was a one-time wonder, a budget that at least looked balanced.

Those tricks can't likely be repeated, though. That leaves the incoming Legislature with the task of actually cutting spending. And we are not talking this time about cutting spending requests by state departments, as leaders in Topeka so often do.

The figures put out by state budget analysts require cuts from what the state will actually spend this year, and next.

What to cut. There are no easy choices. Public education takes up about half the budget. The governor and many legislators have pledged not to cut education. It's popular, and they remember when they held school spending down last time, school boards sued for their "rightful" share of the budget.

State courts, ever mindful of increasing their power and diminishing the Legislature's, ruled that the schools deserved more money. The justices cited a study paid for by the Legislature to justify their order.

Cutting schools won't go far, except maybe

as a last resort. If other programs all get cut, the schools might take a small hit.

Next up in size and threat to the budget are the so-called entitlements, welfare and medical programs which use a lot of federal money and come under federal rules. It's tough for the state to cut Medicaid payments to the poor and elderly, even at a time of dire need.

And the feds might penalize the state for any cuts that run afoul of their rules.

Which leaves everything else. Transportation and higher education are the next-biggest pieces of the pie. Both are important parts of what the state does, and both face ever-increasing demands for money.

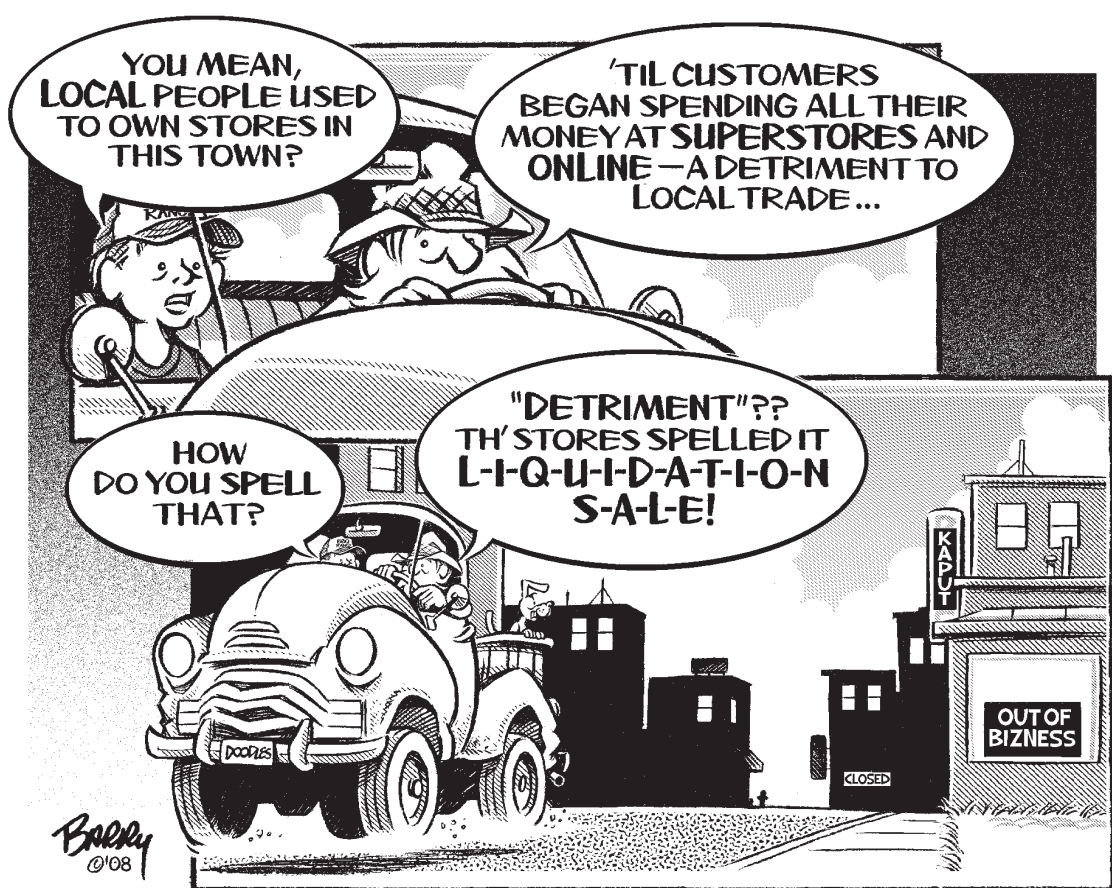
While transportation has its own "trust fund," it gets general tax money from the state as well. With the motor fuels tax increasingly less dependable, as fuel mileage declines and use of "alternative" fuels increases, the "gas tax" brings in less and less. That's one reason transportation needs injections of sales tax money.

Colleges already have been cut to the point where they get only about 25 percent of their money from the state. A recent program to fix up buildings has addressed the worst issues of "deferred maintenance" on campus, but universities and smaller schools still need money.

A lot of "minor" state programs will feel the knife, some the ax. And cuts may still be required for the big boys, schools, colleges, roads and "entitlements."

Nobody in their right minds would take this job on. We're not sure what that says about our legislators, but they do have some tough decisions to make.

Like all the rest of us, though, the state of Kansas will survive this downturn and life to face another. — Steve Haynes



News From the Past

10 Years ago - 1998

Grace Flying Service celebrated 50 years of service to the people in the county and surrounding counties with a barbecue on Thursday evening.

A St. Francis student, Meaghan Jamison, has been named "Miss Teen Kansas Achievement 1998-99."

At the September Hospital Board meeting it was announced that the remodeling of the emergency room has been completed.

Seniors on the Indian football team include Kelly Gabel, Gabe Jenkins, Derek Jamison, Ken Kern, Travis Kechter, Tyler Krien, Lowell Neitzel, Don Schlittenhardt, Shane Walz, Dustin Weeden and Chad Weems.

Senior volleyball players are Ashley Feikert, Jennifer Henderson, Shanda Hender-

son, Christie Holzwarth, Katie Keller, Rebecca Montoya, Jessica Raile, Heather Sowers and Roxy Stuart.

Loans have been approved for the construction of the Tri-State Feeders feedyard facility in Cheyenne County.

A transaction was completed last week where by Mrs. Bill Wellman purchased The Little Red Schoolhouse service station on Highway U.S. 36. Bill Wellman initiated the custom of ringing the historic school bell to announce victories of the St. Francis football team.

Getty's Pharmacy is getting a new face. The entire front of the store on East Washington is being completely remodeled and should be completed within the next few weeks.

St. Francis Board of Education members plan to vote in favor of

a single round of play for Northwest Kansas League basketball when the official league vote is taken on that subject.

The junior class play "The Devil Made Me Do It," will be presented next week.

Two Cambodian families under the sponsorship of the Peace Lutheran Church are expected to arrive in St. Francis within the next three to four weeks. The pastor of Peace Lutheran is Rev. Emery Petersen.

Monica Gleason and Gary Walter were named Homecoming Queen and King. Heidi Demrow and Mark and Neil Roberson were crown bearers.

The junior class in an effort to make money for the Junior/Senior Prom will wash windows, pump up tires and put things back in place on Friday, Nov. 1, after Halloween.

Hangin' With Marge

Grazing

By Margaret Bucholtz



margeb@cityofstfrancis.net

I am one of those people that really doesn't like to sit down and eat a meal. I'm not crazy about buffets either. I always feel like I need to take something of everything and then I just eat too much.

What I love is just to graze all day. Just a handful of this and a couple of that and some water to drink and I'm happy.

I found the perfect place to do this. When you are in the city go to a Sam's Club on the weekends. Don't eat before you go, but just eat at all the sample stands. It's surprising how full you can get. Wow, you can get pizza, chips, casseroles, cheese, cookies and

about anything you can image. Of course there is a downside to all of this. Things taste pretty good in small quantities and finally you buy something that you just know you are going to like.

I did that when I was in Wichita. I kept trying to find healthy things and I know that fish is one of those things, but I really don't like it.

At one of the little stands they had Orange Roughy. I always wanted to try it because I heard it was a mild fish and it didn't taste fishy at all. They had seasoned it and baked it in a little oven and it was pretty tasty.

I bought a package and today I fixed Kurt and me our fish. The

package said to bake at 350° for 11 minutes. I baked it for about 20 because I sure wanted it done.

When we sat down Kurt said, "Why is this watery?" I told him it was probably because it lived in the water so just to be quiet and eat it. Two bites into it I knew I was done. The fishy taste came out and my stomach just started hurting.

Thank heavens for the dog, he loved it and I will give the rest away. I think we will just stick to tuna covered with miracle whip, onions and pickles and pretend it is healthy.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



One of the churches in St. Francis recently hosted a jewelry sale. But not only were bobbles, bangles and beads being sold, so was hope.

A world away from our small, rural community exists the busy, bustling streets of Bangkok, Thailand. In that city are young women struggling to rise above the dark abyss of prostitution. Through a program they are able to make jewelry which is brought to the United States and sold. The majority of money goes back to the girls in Asia, who then have an alternate income. This may allow them to distance themselves from a demoralized fate.

Many of us have had moments

when our lives have been surrounded by dark times. We've had to battle to climb out of a dreary and deep rut to live again in the light of a more normal life.

It's amazing that a small gesture of compassion can be felt on

the other side of the world. What a great message of hope for all of us.

GOD SAYS

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11:28

Church jewelry sale is a success

Dear friends in Cheyenne County and beyond,

The sale of jewelry at Peace Lutheran Church on Dec. 3 was a success. Much of the success was due to everyone who helped.

The jewelry is designed and handcrafted by some special young ladies in Bangkok, Thailand, who have been rescued from the sex trade by Christian missionaries and taught various skills to support themselves and their children.

Of the sales proceeds, 90 percent of each piece of jewelry goes to the lady who made it, and the other 10 percent goes for taxes and shipping costs.

I appreciate everyone who volunteered to help in big and small ways — I could have never done

Letters to the Editor

this by myself. Other helpers were those who let us put up a poster on their property or spread the word by talking about it to other people.

Last of all, there are all of our customers who helped to create a market for these products that

empowers these women and help them discover the love of Jesus and the value He places on them. Thank you and a blessed Christmas to you all!

Karen Hart
St. Francis

Reader corrects writer

Letter to the Editor:

This is a correction in response to Mr. Haynes editorial comments in The Saint Francis Herald last week. The acronym is HIPAA not HIPPA as stated by Mr. Haynes.

(Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996).

Jannelle Bowers
Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service

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E-mail - sfherald@nwkans.com

STAFF

Karen Krien Editor/Publisher
Betty Winston Sports Editor
Casey McCormick Advertising Manager
Lezlie McCormick Production
Candice Goodrich Office Manager
Margaret Bucholtz Columnist

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

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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
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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

Saint Francis Herald

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