



## Plan unlikely to solve health care problems

Despite the big push being mounted by the Obama administration, it seems most unlikely that any plan created in Washington will solve the problems of the American health system.

There are too many problems, their causes are far too diverse and the government itself is at the root of so many of them, that the so-called health care crisis does not lend itself to simple solutions.

At the root of the crisis is the federal government, the biggest problem the health care system has. Government has been muddling the health-care system since the 1960s, and the result is a mess.

Where once doctors accepted the responsibility of doing a certain amount of unpaid work, today most insist on being paid by someone. Where once hospitals were considered charities, run by churches, religious orders and local governments, today they are big business, giving allegiance to the bottom line.

Government created this monster by taking over as the insurer for the poor, the needy and the elderly, and by pumping money into the system. Government forced hospitals and health care providers to learn how to play its game.

And when they were hooked on government payments, then Congress and the legislatures realized how much money was going into health care and demanded cuts. That meant paying hospitals and doctors, pharmacists and other providers less than their normal rate, often less than their cost, to "save" the government money.

So who, then, pays the rest of the cost if the taxpayers won't? Why, the people who can af-

ford it, those who pay their own bills and those with private insurance.

Is it any wonder that few can afford either medical insurance or medical care today?

And what about the uninsured, the working poor who can't afford insurance and can't afford to be sick?

No matter what the rules say, the first question they will hear at the emergency room is, "How do you plan to pay for this? Do you have insurance?"

And they know that the hospital or doctor is liable to sue them for the bill, taking whatever little they might have, so they stay home.

The system is broke, yes. And as much as anything, the government made it that way.

While the simple answer would be to get government out of health care and let people figure out their own solutions, it's not that easy.

Four decades of government money and government interference destroyed the old system. Vast increases in medical costs make it nearly impossible for individuals and families to handle their health-care costs without insurance.

And insurance has gotten so expensive that many cannot afford it.

No, whatever is done - if it is to do more than simply make this mess worse - will require careful planning, attention to the details of what will work and what will not work and consideration of nongovernmental solutions, something that gets no play at all today.

Can we expect that from Congress?

The first order is to avoid the impulse to rush, no matter what the White House says.

- Steve Haynes

## Open Season

### Rainy Vacation

By Cynthia Haynes



I'm on vacation in Colorado and it's raining.

Rain is putting a damper on our plans to go hiking in the mountains and have a picnic.

I looked out back and the dog, never an early riser, is sound asleep in her portable dog house. The rain never puts a damper on her - she likes it. But this morning, it's nearly 11 a.m., and she's still snoozing away in the cool, damp morning.

While Steve and I, our daughter Lindsay and her husband Brad are sitting around sipping our umpteenth cup of coffee and reading our books, the raindrops fall gently on the roof, porch and yard.

The rain isn't deterring the birds, however. They are flying from the trees to the feeders and then chasing each other across the yard.

One of the first things I did on arrival at the cabin was to put food in the three hummingbird and two

wild-bird feeders. The first day, we saw little action. Just a few scouts checking out the offerings.

By the second day, the feeders were getting a few more birds and when we sat out on the porch the hum of wings was obvious. The level of sugar water and bird seed started to sink. One hummingbird feeder went dry by the end of the second day, and I set about making more food - one cup of sugar to three cups water and a few drops of red food coloring. The food color isn't needed to attract the birds; it's so I can tell when the feeders are empty.

I borrowed Brad, who at 5-foot, 10-inches, is the tallest person in this family, to rehang the refilled feeder. Already, the level has gone down an inch or two.

A second feeder is almost dry. I can't see anymore red sugar water, but since the birds are still gathering there and dipping their little beaks into the fake flowers on the sides, I figure there's still some food in the bottom that screws onto the glass cylinder. Still I'd better head for the kitchen to check my sugar supply and warn Brad that

his services as hummingbird feeder lifter will be needed soon.

The birds don't seem to mind the rain. If anything, they seem more active this morning - darting in and out and arguing over which feeder to use.

One bird has the middle feeder under his absolute control. He sits on his preferred perch and drinks thirstily. If any other hummer approaches any of the other three perches, his tail starts to fan. If the interloper comes closer, he darts off his perch and runs them off.

Since four birds could reasonably feed at each station, this seems to be a bit much, but then I'm no expert on hummingbird psychology. Heck, I'm not even very good with humans.

The sparrows and finches out at the wild-bird feeders seem to be more accepting of their neighbors. They fill up the six perches on each feeder - well the seed level has now fallen so that only four perches have access to lunch.

Looks like it's time to refill those also.

Too bad it's so rainy and there's nothing to do today.

## HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN THE ECONOMY IS MELTING DOWN LOCALLY?



"When Mom can't buy me the latest video game!"



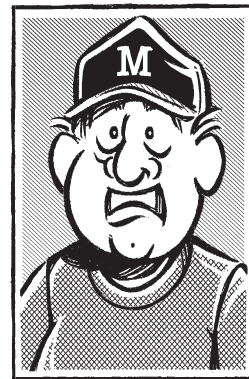
**BUDDY X. BOX**  
Today's Kid

"When the Starbucks near us closes!"



**MARY KAFEENE**  
Coffee Freak

"When we have to settle for Basic Cable!"



**SEYMOUR PLAZE**  
Sports Addict

"When I don't exterminate mice - I cook 'em..."



**KENT FURGETTE**  
1930s Survivor

## News From the Past

### 110 years ago - 1899

J.N. Schaal is the chairman of the Cheyenne County Commissioners with J.E. Tucker and Isaac Kemp as the other commissioners and G.A. Benkelman as the county clerk.

H.C. Varner and Company will have a full line of trunks and valises in a few days.

Miss Lena Leiberman opened up her restaurant in the old Burton post office last Saturday and is prepared to feed the hungry.

It is rumored that Joel Taylor will erect a windmill grinder on his work shop for the purpose of furnishing the people of St. Francis and vicinity with all kinds of ground and mixed feed.

St. Francis Drug Store ad. We are closing out our drug stock at the old Rice residence and we can give you bargains in paints, oils, wall paper and window shades.

Peter Miller purchased the livery business from Jerry Lyons last Saturday and is now busy catering to the wants of the traveling public.

J.J. Armstrong reports they have a complete stock of men, boys and youth clothing at the store. They also have a brand new complete stock of mens and boys dress hats.

### 65 years ago - 1944

Harley W. Whisnant of Route 2, St. Francis completed a 10-week course in military flying technique and will report to Love Field, Dallas, Texas, for assignment as a flying officer in the Air Transport Command.

One of the most interesting pieces of machinery invented within the past decade is the self-propelled combine. The Ackerman Implement Company has one of these marvels of the

age all setup and on display here in St. Francis. The new self-propelled combine is strictly a one-man unit, with the operator having a hydraulic lift to operate the under-slung cutter bar.

Flash floods which have hampered movement of trains through this territory during the past two or three weeks, washing out sections of track along the Burlington's mainline and on the branch coming to St. Francis.

Jim Wolfe of Kansas City arrived in St. Francis to take over the new body and fender repair department being installed at the Nolan Motor Company Garage.

Last Saturday's footings saw the Citizens State Bank of St. Francis hop over the two-million mark, with \$2,013,000 in resources, being the first bank in Cheyenne County ever to attain that high figure.

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



*sc McCormick@nwkansas.com*  
A disturbing thought crossed my mind as my wife and I travelled along I-70 last weekend. Sporadic sightings were made of the skeletal remains of Stuckey's stores. Were they all gone?

You remember the place with the high pitched roof with "Stuckey's" written on it? The clean stores for gas and cold drinks? The spot that had those incredible pecan log rolls?

Well, after a little research on the computer, I was happy and reassured to know that Stuckey's is alive and well. Just not around here.

The Stuckey's story is another one of those "only in America" types. They were started in 1937

by W.S. Stuckey Sr. with a pecan stand in Georgia. According to the company's website, *www.stuckeys.com*, "a venerable roadside oasis - and a highway heaven of souvenirs, cold drinks, hot snacks and pecan candy." At its height, over 350 stores stretched from the southeast to as far away as Connecticut and Oregon.

Sadly, when Mr. Stuckey passed away his business was sold to Pet Milk, Inc. in the late 1970s. Pet followed by selling the chain to IC Industries who, within a matter of months, sold the majority of stores for their real estate value and closed others. Less than 75 of the original businesses survived.

Luckily his son, W.S. Stuckey Jr., a Democratic Congressman

from Georgia for several terms, repurchased the company in 1985.

The stores have been changed, allowing other recognizable names under the Stuckey roof. For instance, it is not unlikely to find a Dairy King along side the pecan log rolls these days.

The last time I stopped at a Stuckeys, to the best of my memory, was in east Texas along I-10 in 1989. As far as I can tell the closest one today would still be in Texas or Missouri.

Perhaps some day, we'll have one along the interstate a little closer to home. I sure would like to pick up another pecan log roll.

## Honor Roll

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Nancy Weinstein, St. Francis; Pearlina Rath, St. Francis; Pete Davies, St. Francis; Kerry Jensen, Cheyenne, Wyo.,

**GOD SAYS**  
**The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable; but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.**  
**Psalms 10:32**

**The Saint Francis Herald**  
 (USPS 475-960)  
 A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

**Nor'West Newspapers**

**8:30 a.m. - noon - 1:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**Monday - Friday**  
 (785) 332-3162 Fax - (785) 332-3001  
 E-mail - sf.herald@nwkansas.com

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**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.

**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.

**Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC**  
 202 N. College  
 Pastor Ken Hart  
 332-2928 Pars. 332-2312  
 Worship 9:30 a.m.  
 Fellowship 10:30 a.m.  
 Communion 1st Sunday of the month

**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  
 No Sunday School  
 Morning Worship 10:30 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 9:15 a.m.  
 Church Service 10:15 a.m.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
 785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams  
 Pastor Jerry Nowack  
 Sabbath School 9:30  
 Morning Worship 10:45

**Laise the Lord**

**St. Francis Equity**

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