



# Opinion

## Health-care package now seems inevitable

So now a health-care bill, perhaps the biggest single change in U.S. society in the last half century, seems inevitable with the end of Sen. Ben Nelson's holdout.

The Nebraska senator's concern was mostly over the possibility that federal money would somehow be spent for abortions, something that's traditionally been part of federal law. The McCook native held out to the end, wringing concessions for his vital vote.

When Democratic leaders found a way to please him Saturday after hours of tough negotiations, and brought his vote into the fold, they were assured for the time of the 60 senators needed to end debate on the bill, 58 Democrats and the two (former Democrat) independents.

That left just the 40 Republicans standing in the medical-center doorway, as it were, one vote shy of being able to block Senate passage.

Even the powerful American Medical Association, once a bastion of conservative opposition to socialized medicine, gave in and backed the bill. The president bought off Big Pharma with promises on continued profits. The drug companies bought even ads to push the bill.

President Barack Obama still won't get his Christmas wish, a health-reform bill all tied up in a bow by the new year. Both Senate and House leaders said it was too late to hash out differences between the \$1 trillion House version and the \$871 billion Senate plan in just a week — especially with two holidays in the mix.

That means the Democrats will have a lot of work, a lot of negotiations, left before they can claim victory. It seems almost certain now that they will get a bill, however, and even more certain that it will please no one.

Republicans will claim health care will bust the budget, though the president says his plan will save taxpayers something like \$132 billion over a decade. We'll see.

Liberals will not be happy, despite passage of a bill they've hungered after since the 1950s. Compromise led the leadership to cut out any

hint of a "public option," a government-run health plan akin to the "single payer" plan so feared by conservatives.

Abortion backers will try, and fail, to change restrictions in the compromise. They will think, rightly so, perhaps, that they have been sold down the river.

Many liberals will see the bill as, at worst, a failure, at best, only a first step. That means the health-care debate won't go away even after a bill is signed.

Democrats will make claim again that the GOP is "the party of no," and it's true that the Republicans have been too busy fighting this bill to propose much in the way of an alternative.

The party has been on the defensive, with its numbers so reduced that it has had little say in shaping health policy. The only good thing about that is the GOP can wash its hands of the bill and blame the Democrats for any and all problems.

Maybe the GOP will gain some ground in the off-year elections, but unless it does, it's increasingly irrelevant in Congress.

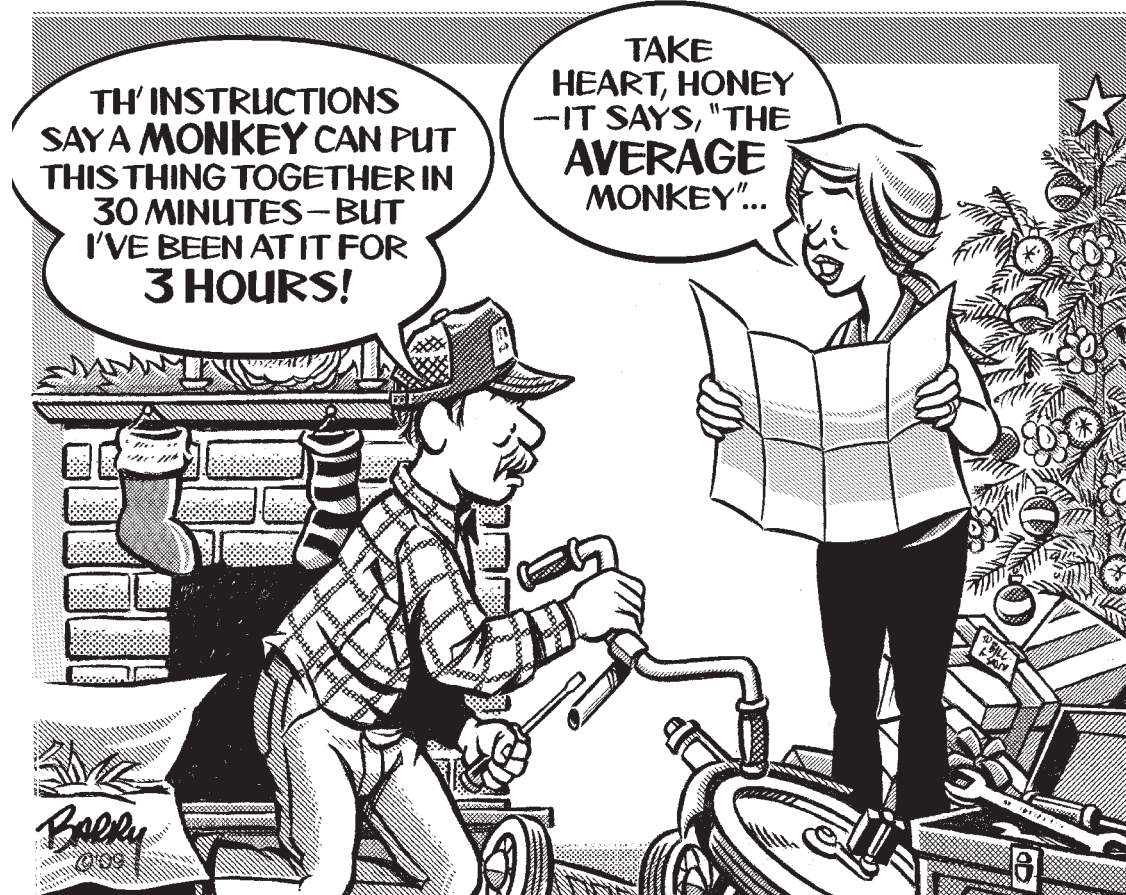
Winners and losers aside, what will happen to our health-care system?

It worked pretty well until government got involved in the Great Society era of the 1960s. Our bet is government cannot, by its nature, make it work any better, reduce costs or produce a system that works for everyone. Short-ages are likely as doctors lose incentives and see their pay cut.

But only time will tell whether the bill saves the government billions or costs trillions. Whether health care improves or costs continue to soar.

Much of the Democrats' recent gains will hinge on the success — or failure — of this bill. There will be much pressure from the liberal wing to change it before it even takes effect. And the party's future will depend on what happens then.

— Steve Haynes



## News From the Past

### 15 years ago - 1994

Rory Cahoj, Colby Community College's first national champion, has been named to the National Junior College Athletic Association Wrestling Championship in Bismarck, N.D. Cahoj is the first Trojan wrestler to be named to the Hall of Fame.

A 10-foot teepee was erected in the center of the Cheyenne County Museum this weekend and will be on display for several weeks.

The Music Club Parade of Homes has three homes open to the public this year. On display are the residences of Josephine Churchill, Norvin and Lillian Anderson and Joe and Hilda Mlinek. Also on the tour will be the Cheyenne County Museum.

The *Salina Journal* Class 2-1A football team includes the names of Indians Chris Blanchard, lineman, Andy Poling, defensive back, Chad Douthit, linebacker and Brad Faylor, defensive end.

The preliminary hearing for Dr. Stan Naramore has been set for 9 a.m. on Dec. 14 and Dec. 15

in the Cheyenne County District Court.

Eloise Osterholme has a new business on the west end of St. Francis' Main Street, located next to Saintry Super Foods. The Lady in Red is a wholesale business and her delightful candy shop products are shipped far and wide.

The high school academic team includes Teresa Douthit, Angela Jolliffe, Amy Zwegardt, Kendall Day, Leigh Faulkender, Alisha Weeden and Brian Davis. Jeff Olofson is the sponsor.

A recent *Salina Journal* article written by Linda Mowery-Denning showed Cheyenne County to be fourth in the state in predicted population losses in the next 36 years.

### 20 years ago - 1989

The American Egg Board has notified Shirley Zwegardt that she is a second place winner in the National Egg Cooking Contest and that she will be receiving a check in the amount of \$2,000.

team won the Liberty League Tournament. Players include Nick Montoya, Mike Zwegardt, Jared Douthit, Shawn Rogers, Shaun White, Jason Schliep, Tye Faulkender, Noel Schultze, Jason Johnson, Jason Yost, Dallas O'Brien and Brad Bieker. Kent Kechter is the head coach and Jeff Miller is the assistant coach.

Officers of the New Generation fund in St. Francis are Robert Grace, president; Jerry Renk, vice president, Eric Fiala, secretary/treasurer. Other members include Carl Werner, Pastor David Rossbach, Kelly Frewen and Floyd Jensen. The fund made their first donation to the ABC Preschool.

### 65 years ago - 1944

The Selective Service Board for Cheyenne County announced that six more of the county's young men will report for induction into the armed forces on Dec. 15. They are Robert Bader, Bernard Kramer, Lloyd Batholomal, Alvin Bandel, Dale Schlepp and Lee Beason.

## Hangin' With Marge

Back Again

By Margaret Bucholtz



*margeb@cityofstfrancis.net*  
It's been over a month ago since I sat here writing a story. Sorry it took me so long to get back on my two feet again, but I will let you know my version of a total knee replacement.

It is kind of like they explain it to you first, then they buy you books and a video and you go home and watch what is going to happen. About the only thing I got out of the book and video was that you were to go into surgery with a positive attitude.

Because I am, by heredity, a worrier, pessimist and a depressed person, I was shocked at how great of an attitude I had. Usually when I had surgery I fall apart while I am in the pre-op room. Not this time! The doctor came in as they were taking me down and asked me if I was worried and I said, No, I am not nervous at all and ready to go. That really should have been my first clue.

When they had me in the operating room I heard them talking about where the pressure point was to cut on. That was when I begin to tell them, Do not cut on me until I am under. I have had a couple of surgeries that they cut on me while I was awake. I started to explain which surgeries that would have been, but that was the last thing I remem-

bered. Kind of makes me wonder if they gave me something just to shut my mouth.

About six hours later, I am in my room. It was a round room, but kind of neat. I knew I couldn't hide in any of the corners since there were none.

I don't remember too much other than the nurses were coming in telling me who they were. I didn't care, I knew Kurt and that was enough.

It wasn't long and Kurt told me he was going back to his rooming house and I certainly didn't care as life was good.

Then sometime in the middle of the night I woke up and my leg was moving like I was riding a bicycle. I swear however, that my knee was going over my head and it hurt. I rang for the nurse and got the sweet reply at my head board, can I help you?

Really, now that was about all I needed. Would I have bothered to push the button if I didn't need help? I told her my knee was over my head, and I could not get it to stop moving!

Finally a group of nurses came in and they slid me back up a little in bed, and left again. It was after two more calls, the nurse said something about maybe I needed a little more medicine. I told her just take that thing off and I would be fine, but she said, I can't, the doctor wants it on there for the first night.

Then I don't remember much more about where my head was compared to my leg, but the machine did come off the next morning and it was time to go on my first walk.

To be continued.

**GOD SAYS**  
Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.  
John 10: 7, 9

## Casey McCormick

By Casey McCormick



*By Casey McCormick*  
*scmccormick@nwkansascity.com*  
It's funny what you can find when you're not looking for it.

For example, a couple weeks ago I was at the United Methodist Thrift Store with my wife and boss. As the ladies went their ways, I was looking at the books and puzzles.

Suddenly something caught my eye. It was a cassette tape of Bing Crosby music. But not just any of the "old crooner's" stuff. It was Christmas music!

Now everyone must know who

Bing Crosby was and what he did for Christmas tunes. But to my surprise I had to explain him to one of my step-sons, Trevor.

As we were driving along he asked me what kind of "poop" I was listening to. "Don't you know who this is?" I asked. "Haven't you ever heard of White Christmas from the movie *Holiday Inn*? Sure it was made in 1942. And Bing sang it again in 1954 in the film *White Christmas*. Okay, maybe you haven't seen the movies, but you have to know the song?" "Nope," he said.

Oh well, I guess it's a generational thing. So I won't let it bother me as I cruise down the Kansas roads and listen to one of my favorites.

Another little bit of holiday trivia; it's said that Irving Berlin wrote the song as he sat pool-side at the Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix, AZ, in 1940.

So in closing, as Bing would put it, "May your days be merry and bright!"

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**Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 9 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 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.  
Communion 3rd Sunday

**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 9:15 a.m.  
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

**St. Francis Equity**

**St. Francis Herald**

**Praise the Lord**