



Public officials plan party with your money

Plans by the League of Kansas Municipalities to spend nearly a quarter of a million dollars to commemorate its centennial should come as a shock to Kansas taxpayers.

It's their money, after all, but they won't be invited to the party, planned for the group's annual conference this October in Overland Park.

This is just one small example of the cavalier manner in which some public officials spend your money.

On top of the \$240,000 budget, the league is asking cities to donate \$1,000 to \$5,000 to help sponsor this "gala celebration" of the anniversary. This must be some party they're planning

With many Kansans out of work and others just scraping to feed and clothe their families, throwing a quarter-million-dollar celebration might be seen as excess, and indeed, the league says so far, no cities have signed up as "sponsors."

A report in the *Lawrence Journal-World* noted that the league provides many services, including training, lobbying and legal expertise, to member cities. It also provides a forum for city officials to gather, network and exchange ideas.

All of this is done as taxpayer expense, however, and taxpayers should demand that it be done with frugality. The legal says it already has spent \$66,000 on preparations for the gala, with \$174,000 in the budget for this year. Part of the money will go for television commercials extolling the league's history.

And this at a time when cities across Kansas have lost their state money and have to scrape to pay expenses — or raise taxes.

Any city that makes a donation to this event would

seem to be risking the wrath of its taxpayers. Taxpayers ought to question officials about the dues they pay to this organization.

It's not that cities shouldn't have an association. The league performs many useful functions, helping to train city officials and guide them through legal issues.

Its lobbying function can be another matter. Sometimes, the league takes taxpayers' money and uses it for causes that many citizens might not agree with. These have included undermining the state's public notice and open government laws.

Cities have not sued the state over money as some school districts have, and that's a plus. However, we feel public officials need to be careful to take the interests of everyday citizens, and not just public officials, into account when they go to the Statehouse and spend tax money.

Sometimes those two are not identical. Officials often want to see more secrecy and more freedom to spend money than many citizens would like. That creates a duty for those spending taxpayers' money to influence public affairs to be sure they're working for the taxpayers, not just those who spend tax money.

A tax-financed gala in the middle of the Great Recession, with thousands out of work?

It's not a tasteful use of our money, frankly, not when taxpayers are outside looking in.

Send it back to the cities for tax reduction, we say, knowing full well it's just a drop in the bucket. Every tax dollar, taken from someone supposedly for the public good, should count. Every one.

— Steve Haynes

Budget shortfall impacts us all

As I watch how the state budget shortfall is impacting the nursing home, school system and hospital a few things strike me as noteworthy.

It seems that issues matter when they get to a local level, regardless of what the issue is. Economy matters at a local level when it impacts you or your family. The direct and indirect impact of taxes matter when they affect us and our community. Local issues become state issues which then at some point become federal issues.

Solutions for these local issues come from all three sources as well. They come from Federal, State, and local initiatives. Some of the solutions look simple, but they are more often far more complex than they appear because of the way things are related. Sometimes the solution to an issue is the most obvious one. But more often, there are several adjustments that will provide better results in harmony with one another.

The horizon we use in problem solving is another perspective that paints our results. At times we look at today, this week, this month, or this year as our horizon without serious thought to what happens over the next 5 years or decade. This puts us in the situation we have all heard about where we spend all our time "fighting alligators, when our

Letter to the Editor

strategy was to drain the swamp." We can "win the battle and lose the war." We can be "penny wise and pound foolish." It's all about the horizon we use for problem solving.

When we discuss economic development, we talk about attracting a business to the community that has "decent" wages and will employ some number of people while bringing outside dollars into the community. Then I think about the school and consider that an enormous portion of those dollars come from outside of the community... the nursing home and Medicaid dollars that come from taxes, but will go somewhere if they don't come here, ... the hospital with it's payer sources like Medicare, Medicaid, commercial insurance... All these businesses provide service to the community with a large input of outside dollars employing local people just like some other businesses we have locally.

From a development perspective, it makes sense to maintain these services because they are not easily replaced and form a basis for some of the other business in the community. By the way, all those other

businesses in our community are likewise keys to keeping the school, nursing home, and hospital. Our community is woven together like a fabric. Each thread is important to the others.

While someone might say, "My kids are out of school. This isn't my fight, and it doesn't affect me." I believe it would be more accurate if you added "yet" to the end of that last statement. How these issues are handled will create long term results (good or bad) in our community. These things will affect the value of our homes, our ability to get services, the cost of goods and services, and even our lifestyle/quality of life.

The bottom line is that no matter where you stand on these issues, we all need to be active participants in contacting our legislators and making sure they understand our position and how what they do affects us. We also need to be looking at a longer horizon than just the coming year; otherwise we are doomed to be fighting the same alligators next year.

Leslie Lacy
St. Francis

Hangin' With Marge

Genealogy

By Margaret Bucholtz



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I have been busy!!! One day I actually left home and came to town. I worked at the museum, then Kurt took me to the Pizza Hut for supper and then I went and played bridge.

Now most people are wondering why that day was so special. Since I have chosen to stay home most of the winter I became sort of a hermit. That day I was like a social butterfly

and it took me two days and nights before I could sleep.

My brain was so confused with actual chit chat that it just went crazy.

I had spent most of the winter working on genealogy, which is my favorite thing to do, until even my dreams were of my deceased ancestors. It was nice to hear a voice and laugh with other people.

Speaking of genealogy did you know that anthropologists claim that everyone on earth is a 40th cousin? That would mean that any two people can find at least one common ancestor who as lived since 800 A.D.

I thought I was doing good to find someone from the 1530 A.D. Guess I need to keep on looking.

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

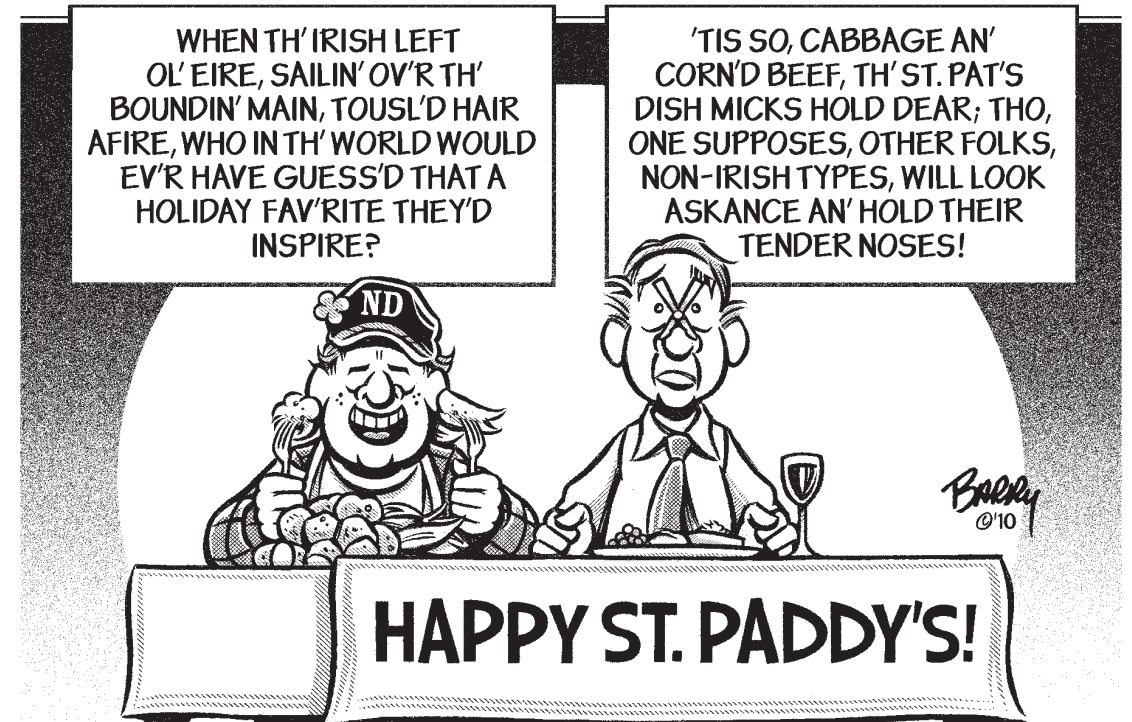
P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050
Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

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@nwkansan.com

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Readers are asked to wake up

Letter to the Editor

WAKE UP! Yes you! You are close to being reduced to a Serf (that is a nice word for slave). The smell coming out of Washington is because of a deliberate madness being carried out right there under our noses to take away what freedoms we still have. But we are not going to have them very long if the fiendish plan succeeds.

Monday's television program by Glenn Beck explained very clearly what is going on and he has bravely told the nation how it works. See a rerun if you can find it.

He explained how our founding fathers deliberately wanted to avoid creating a government of kings and serfs that had been used in nations for hundreds of years. What they created was the most successful form of government ever seen before, and now it is purposely being destroyed to change it completely.

Beck clearly explained that what Obama is doing is a deliberate diabolical plan to enslave all of us. He had a video of a Communist in New

York saying our system of government had to be DESTROYED so the change could be accomplished. The speaker is a member of the Artists etc of New York who received Tarp Money.

What we see happening in Greece, Iceland and other countries who are deep in debt, ie riots and destruction, has to happen here he said. The rest of the program clearly explained better than I can.

But everyday we see the Chicago style politics coming out of the President's office and his choice of left-learning advisors. If someone criticizes you smear, destroy and run them out of town. They have been very effective at it.

Bribe those who don't plan to vote your way. Do anything needed to pass the legislation that is exactly the opposite of what is needed to restore financial soundness to our country.

The census that is in place is critical. With Acorn splitting into other

organizations that will be involved in the critical areas, the left-political stage is being set to dominate America. The school books being used or to be used will not tell you how America was founded and who was responsible. The youth are being indoctrinated with Socialism/Communism.

What can we do? Be aware of what is really going on, then get on your knees and pray. God helped George Washington crossing a river to defeat the English and Prussian troops when they were outnumbered and near defeat. He will still help us if we are willing to admit our need and ask for his help.

Support whatever group that is working on our behalf. The future of your children and grandchildren is at stake as never before. Make a difference for their sake if nothing else.

Don Love
St. Francis

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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There are some sure signs that spring is on its way.

Snow is turning to rain. Frozen ground is now mud. The fields of winter wheat are greening up. Also, mornings are milder with the welcome sound of birds chirping for a sunrise.

Another sure sign is the Cheyenne County Wildlife's Fishing Contest, which was held last Sunday. It was a great success with 46 teams showing up at Keller Pond.

Over the years I've been the lucky guy who gets to cover the numerous, wildlife events that make up a part of our local news. What makes these things even more fun to cover is that our last boy at home, Joey, likes this stuff too.

It is such a special part of living in the country that he can simply walk out of our home and nature is right there! Being a city kid, it took a little

doing for me to get to the wild. Sure my brothers, friends and I would go camping, but it required a bit of a drive to get away from Denver.

I worry about the future of hunting and the preservation of our natural resources. Will Joey's kids have the same opportunities he has to enjoy the outdoors? Like so many things in life, nothing is guaranteed.

Thanks to the Cheyenne Coun-

ty Wildlife for working for these things. And thanks also to my brother-in-law Doug for teaming up with my boy to go fishing.

If you're interested in supporting and becoming a member of our local wildlife organization, be sure to get a ticket to the annual banquet coming up on March 26.

GOD SAYS
Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. James 1:12

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.

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.

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.

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

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

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

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Praise the Lord