

Voters may decide who will run the Legislature

Just who will run the Kansas Legislature could be decided by voters this fall.

It's an important issue, as always, particularly because this session, for the first time in recent memory, the forces pushing for bigger government and more spending seemed clearly to be in charge.

It wasn't the Legislature that changed; the message coming back from the home front was that people agreed no further cuts were tolerable in social programs, public schools, roads or higher education.

And the Legislature listened. Even our own Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer said as much. He voted for a 1-cent tax increase to help save schools and other programs from more cuts because he heard the message from back home. And he is about as conservative, anti-spending, anti-tax as anyone in the chamber.

And just what was the message?

Across the area, but particularly in St. Francis and Cheyenne County, school superintendents and board members, teachers, hospital administrators and nurses, anyone whose check depends directly — as with educators — or indirectly — as with hospital employees — on state and federal money was calling for an end to the cuts.

It's natural that if you spent your life trying to provide a good education for children, or helping the sick, you hate to see schools cut and cut and cut again. No one wants to see their life's work whittled away, and schools have been cut a bunch.

Rural hospitals depend, even more than those in the cities, on state and federal dollars. So do nursing homes and clinics.

And people were scared. Scared that their jobs might be next. That their schools or hospitals might be crippled by lower income. That their lives would be altered, maybe forever.

Teachers' groups, school and hospital admin-

istrators, those who benefit from public spending, and many supporters, helped organize the push. As many as 300 people turned out for a meeting with legislators in Bird City, an unheard-of number.

And that got people's attention, especially the legislators and other public officials. They felt the ground begin to move. It was as if Kansas suddenly had awakened and realized that author Thomas Frank in his book "What's the Matter With Kansas," had been right, that people out here should be voting their economic interests rather than their conservative beliefs.

If that's true, it could mean a "sea change" in Kansas politics, which has for years been dominated by the anti-spending, anti-tax crowd. Before, the state always had enough money to pay for essentials like schools. When, after huge spending increases, the bottom fell out of state tax revenues because of the deep recession, ideas began to change.

It's not just that schools and hospitals and other programs were hurt by state budget cuts. It's that the reason for the "shortfall," as they call it in Topeka, was that Kansans in general were hurting: out of a job, making less than two years ago, worried about making ends meet.

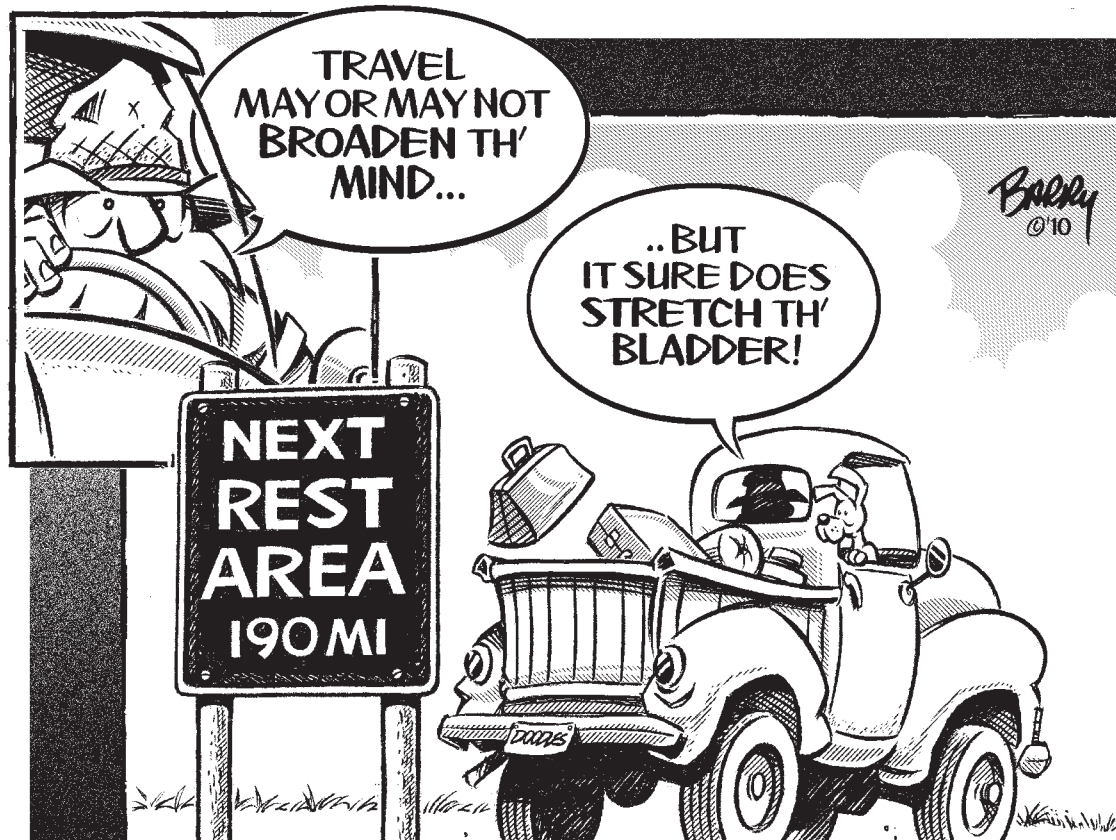
But despite the tough times, a lot of people realized that jobs depended on those state program, their jobs and others, and they made a cry loud enough to be heard.

It's anyone's guess who will be in charge next year. Voters might throw the rascals out and elect a whole new bunch. Or they might not.

The anti-tax crowd might get a boost when the new tax tables go into effect this summer, or the tax-and-spend crowd might wind up running the show.

One thing for sure, things will be different. And as always in recent year, it'll be an interesting season.

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

35 years ago - 1975

Larry Laffrenzen has been named administrator of the St. Francis Good Samaritan Center.

Libby Williams, a spring 1974 graduate of Texas Tech University has been hired as the new home economist at the Cheyenne County Extension Office. Miss Williams is replacing Dianne DeGood, who moved with her husband to Golden, Colo.

Construction of the 20-unit housing project for the elderly, located in the northeast part of St. Francis, is nearing completion.

Shawn Alsup has been selected as the delegate to the American Legion Boys' State of Kansas. David Lewis has been selected as the alternate delegate.

Elaine Kite is the new president of the Cheyenne County Hospital Guild.

Ten Girl Scouts, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Persinger, helped to clean up Howard T. Sawhill Park on Monday.

Dr. Bill Pannbacker is the new president of the Jaycees. Other officers include Dave Wright, secretary, Kenny

Bracelin, vice president and Dr. Tom Keller, treasurer.

Officers of the new senior class at the high school include Ed Smalley, president; Dave Lewis, vice president; Ron Wilson, secretary and Terry Miller, treasurer.

Outgoing members of the Citizens State Bank Junior Bank Board include Kim Hilt, Dan Randall, Donita Zweygardt, Gaye Henderson, Brad Small, Theresa Quigley, Tim Harkins and Laura Lee Keller.

40 years ago - 1970

A major change in business ownership was announced this week by John Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe announced the Precision Engine and Machine Service has been purchased by the principals in that shop, Henry Persinger and Larry Wilson. The newly expanded and equipped shop was built in conjunction with Wolfe's Automotive Parts.

Two St. Francis Boy Scouts will receive Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout, at a special Eagle Scout Court of Honor on June 7. Scouts Stanley Burn-

ham and Gary Watkins are the boys to be honored.

Dr. T.J. Walz "Appreciation Day" will be observed on Sunday, June 28, with a reception to be held in the St. Francis High School cafeteria. A special program will be held at 3 p.m. Dr. Walz announced his retirement from active medical service to the community effective May 15 after a period of long service which began in 1923.

Mrs. Patricia Leibbrandt has resigned as Cheyenne County Home Economist. She has served that post in the extension office since December, 1966.

The new Honored Queen of the St. Francis Bethel of Job's Daughters is JorJean Reynolds. Janelle Miller is the Senior Princess and Leslie Fenier is the new Junior Princess.

Miss Northwest Kansas, Myra Northrup of St. Francis, will be honored at a reception at Goodland on June 26. This is a send-off before the Miss Kansas Pageant in Pratt on July 9-11.

Voter fraud is not a phony issue

With all due respect, Mr. Haynes, voter fraud is not a phony issue in Kansas. Your editorial comments of June 17 belittle the platform by Kris Kobach, Republican candidate for Kansas Secretary of State, to fight voter fraud by implying there is no problem.

"It is critical voter fraud be dealt with and prevented in America," said Kobach at a recent campaign event in Eldorado, Kansas. "The stakes are too high. It is more than an election lost; it is a disenfranchisement of our voter rights."

He should know. He's been counsel to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft at the Justice Department from 2001 to 2003. He also served as the attorney general's chief adviser on immigration law and border security, to name just a few of his accomplishments.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Raetta Wall, Glendale, Ariz.; Elmer Schorzman, San Diego, Calif.; Sherly Kenoyer, Aiken, S.C.; Margery Richardson, Alamo, Calif.; Troy Burr, Bird City; Lavona Rand, Goodland; Janette Pledger, San Diego, Calif.; Janice DeGood, St. Francis; Cecil Hess, Oberlin; Peggy Smith, Thornton, Colo.; Susan Seno, Castle Rock, Colo.; Jim Dogg, Kansas City; Cathy Brunswig, Fort Collins, Colo.; Karla Zweygardt, St. Francis; Mrs. William Black, Jonesboro, Ark.; Susanne Todd, St. Francis;

Letter to the Editor

Kobach believes voter fraud is not just an issue of ACORN, but it has been perpetrated by a lot of groups. "We have to get serious about prosecuting voter fraud," he said, and that is what Kobach is currently working to do and plans to continue doing if elected.

There are several steps he wants to take to do this.

One starts with voter fraud cases, which are rarely prosecuted. He would like to see the secretary of state prepare the information for prosecution and help the county attorneys involved in the case.

A second step would be to have a statute requiring a photo ID when voting.

Third is to look at the voter rolls. Currently there are about 119,000 bad names in Kansas and each is an opportunity for voter fraud.

The final step would be to have people prove citizenship when registering to vote. Once the Kansas model is in place, Kobach would like to take it to the other

49 states.

Currently, he said the system is based on trust. Ronald Reagan once said, "Trust, but verify." As citizens of Cheyenne County we are used to doing just that, and this issue of voter fraud is no exception. Kris Kobach hopes to protect voter rights in Kansas for those who are qualified and wish to vote by verifying citizenship, which we believe is a precious commodity.

We are a nation of laws which need to be upheld and enforced, including the right to vote and the laws that protect that right. As the saying goes, "The best defense is a good offense," Mr. Haynes, and that's why Kris Kobach is a serious "not phony" candidate for Secretary of State on the Republican ticket in Kansas.

Concerned Republicans of Cheyenne County, Bonnie Cram, Connie Jenkins, Lee Nichols, Penny Gienger, Paula Keller, St. Francis

GOD SAYS
If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.
John 12:26

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Casey's Comments
By Casey McCormick
Remember when you took a summer job?
One of mine was riding my bike to Foothills Country Club on the west side of Denver to caddy.
Working at a young age had an added excitement for me. You weren't quite a grownup yet, still being in school and living at home. However having a job meant being trusted with responsibilities.
Also, walking around with some money in your pocket that your folks didn't give you, that could be spent any possible way, was a pretty heady new experience.
Our two kids that are still at home are at this point in life. Lexi starting working at Pizza Hut several months ago. Joey is in Denver working a trash truck with his older brother, Tim, for part of the summer.
It has been good for both of them. They are both enjoying some of the benefits I just stated.
But it is an even better feeling for the parents.
Raising kids, you hope to get them turned into the right directions that will make them good members of our society. Being industrious and willing to work are qualities that will never go out of style.
This is not to say that life is made for these two. However, as they begin to edge out of the nest, they are doing some good things.

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.

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.

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

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8:30 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 3rd Sunday

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.

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 Time Following
Worship
Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

St. Francis Equity

St. Francis Herald

Praise the Lord