



Plan to ban 'earmarks' will not stop spending

A wire-service story on the Republican plan to ban "earmarks," that peculiar congressional perk which allows members to set aside millions for pet projects, maintains the ban will do no good.

It's just window dressing, the "experts" argue; just eliminating earmarks won't keep Congress from spending our money.

And while that may be true, a ban on the much-abused earmarks would be a start to reforming Congress and cutting down on federal spending. It will take more, much more, to get Washington under control.

"It's a symbol," said one former Congressman turned lobbyist. But symbols are important. If people are tired of ever-growing government spending, they need to see some progress.

The truth is, earmarks are only a small part of the picture. Lack of discipline is the biggest problem: Members of Congress gain by spending money and offend pressure groups when they cut budgets. There's no force that pushes them to cut spending, except of course the voters.

But voter behavior is contradictory. We say we want less spending and smaller government, but in the same breath demand that our own "pet" programs be spared the ax. And every program is someone's pet.

Every program has a pressure group that protects it - farm groups for farm subsidies, senior citizen groups for Social Security, busi-

ness groups for tax breaks, and so on. Organized lobbying groups put direct pressure on Congress. Dispersed voter movements like the "tea party" are effective only when they actually affect winning and losing, as they did this year.

But by the next election, the tea party may have faded or weakened. The lobbyists will still be in Washington, still be dispensing campaign money, still be influencing votes.

Citizens who want lower spending, a balanced budget and cuts to major programs first need to realize that it will take some courage for members to vote against the pressure group. Fear of losing office is the only thing that will create it.

And voters will have to agree to cuts in some sacred cows, first among them Social Security. No one is talking about benefit cuts, understand, but trimming planned increases and raising the retirement age.

Even that will take a fight. Every program has someone to fight for it, someone who benefits. The government can be changed, but not without a fight. Not without cost. And not without agreement that we need to bring fiscal sanity to Washington.

A balanced-budget amendment would be a good start. So would a plan to save Social Security from bankruptcy. So, in fact, would be an end to earmarks. It might be symbolic, but symbols can be powerful.

So why not try it? *- Steve Haynes*

Happy Thanksgiving (VEGETARIAN-STYLE)



News From the Past

5 years ago - 2005

Cody Raile was named Herdsman of the Show in the Open Gelbvieh Show at the Kansas State Fair.

Winners at the Punt, Pass and Kick competition were Marlee Rath in the 8-9-year-old girls division; Cade Bracelin in the 8-9 year old boys division, Walker Janicke in the 10-11 year old boys division, Lexee Reichert in the 12-13 year old girls division and Martin Hnizdil in the 12-13 year old boys division.

20 years ago - 1990

Leticia Alter has announced the opening of La Boutique, a clothing and gift shop located at 607 S. Benton on Oct. 8. The shop will carry the latest fashions in ladies and teens clothing.

After 58 years of farming, Joe Neilan has decided to put his drill to rest and turn the farming over to someone else. Joe moved from South Dakota to Cheyenne County in 1927.

Cheyenne County Young Woman of the Year, Patty Pittman, of St. Francis traveled to Belleville last week where she was a participant in the state contest. Patty did very well with her talent number, a comical tap routine, placing in the top 10.

Fort Hays State University honored the 1966 Fort Hays Tiger football team during the homecoming football game half time activities. Attending from St. Francis was team member Tom Stevens. Unable to attend were two other team members from St. Francis Roger Faulk-

ender and Troy Porter.

John Knodel has leased Kramer Furniture and Kramer Chapel from Don Kramer. Don graduated from Dallas Institute of Funeral Service in December 1959. He began working for Madeline Riddell in January of 1960, buying into the business in 1962 and totally purchasing it in 1972. John began helping Don six years ago.

Last week, Jerry Renk of the St. Francis State Bank and Trust Company, announced the change of the bank's name to Bankwest St. Francis. In honor of the occasion, an open house was held.

For weeks, the Cheyenne County Jaycees have been laying plans and preparing the Haunted House to behold in the old Equity Hardware building.

30 years ago - 1980

Personnel new to the St. Francis school's classrooms are Janet Garretson, second grade; Sharon Olofson, elementary library aide; Sally Hickert, fifth grade; Dotty Lewis, Title I aide; Fred Slack, high school social science, Brenda Jo Koester, English and journalism; and Nancee Lahman, elementary school special education teacher.

The St Francis Equity won the grand championship in the Cheyenne County Fair parade Saturday. The float was a replica of the Equity service station as it looked in 1913. The theme of the parade was "The Way We Were."

The 1980 Cheyenne County Rodeo Queen was Darci Rob-

erson of St. Francis.

Returning volleyball letter winners include Megan Kinen, Julie Burnham, Jeri Northrup, Lisa Kramer, Lora Van Vleet and Ronee Rath.

Returning football letter winners include Kelly Cook, Terry O'Leary, Daryl Loyd, Eddie Brunk, Max Dirks and Brendan Alsup.

75 years ago

By a vote of 229 to 8 bonds for an addition to the grade school building carried at the election last Tuesday. The building and the equipment is not to exceed \$42,000 in cost.

Methodist pastors will be returning to Cheyenne County following the Northwest Kansas Conference which was held in Wichita. Rev. W.E. Callahan will be back at the St. Francis M.E. Church, Rev. H.R. Husted at the Neville-Jaqua-Lawn Ridge Circuit and Rev. Paul J. Veilguth at the Methodist Church in Bird City.

Dr. J.H.A. Peck suffered a gun shot wound through his upper left leg about 10 o'clock Monday morning. The gun, an automatic pistol was discharged when the car lurched as he got out to continue shooting at a large rattlesnake in the road.

A new business in the form of a small confectionery store has been opened in St. Francis by Mr. and Mrs. W.O. Koontz of Atwood. They are located in the building formerly occupied by the Wyatt Oil Company of- fice on the main street.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



I don't know who exactly is to blame for Thanksgiving getting forgotten. Is it the retail giants that replace Halloween candy with Christmas items? Or is it the shoppers whose zeal to get a head-start that have fueled this situation?

It's not like the Grinch can be held accountable for this theft, but somewhere along the way this most special of holidays has lost some of its importance. But not with us.

Our tradition the last couple of years has been getting the clan together in Kansas City. However

we'll stay close to home this week and visit Grandma and Grandpa Bucholtz instead.

The gathering may not be as folksy as the Norman Rockwell painting of the Thanksgiving feast, but nothing will be lacking. Margaret will provide the turkey, ham loaf, mashed taters and gravy, Doug and Marla will bring pies and sweet potatoes and we will bring the cherry cheesecake and dressing. The stuffing is my specialty as two types are made, one without oysters.

But the food and football on

the TV are only additional "dressings." For the real part will be having our loved ones together to count our blessings.

Hope your Thanksgiving isn't lost between the other holidays!

Casey's Bread Stuffing

- 2 cups finely chopped celery
 - 1 cup chopped onion
 - 1/2 cup chopped parsley (or 1/4 cup dried parsley)
 - 1 cup butter
 - 2 teaspoons sage or poultry seasoning
 - 1/2 teaspoon of salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
 - 2 packages of dried bread cubes (one seasoned)
 - 2 cans of chicken broth
 - 2 cans of oysters (optional)
- In a saucepan cook celery, onion and parsley in butter till tender but not brown; remove from heat and stir in sage, salt and pepper. Place bread cubes in a large mixing bowl and add vegetable mixture. After mixing ingredients, gently mix in oysters if using. Pour into a lightly greased roasting pan and cover with chicken broth (for moist dressing add more, dry dressing use less.) Cover with foil or lid and bake at 375 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Randy Dinkel, St. Francis; Brian Brent, Fort Collins, Colo.; Paul Morrison, Aurora, Colo.; Gerald Bier, St. Francis; Thelma Raile, St. Francis; Dan Knorr, Olathe; Doug Sloper, Thornton, Colo.; Majestic Service, St. Francis; Delbert Barnhart, St. Francis; Troy Hilt, St. Francis; Glenn Isernhagen, St. Francis; Leigh Legere, Overland Park, Dan Winston, Ellsworth; Eric Fiala, St. Francis;

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GOD SAYS
And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

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Communion 3rd Sunday

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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
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Worship 10:30 a.m.
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