

State program cuts opposed by supporters

The wailing and gnashing of teeth has begun. Supporters of state programs about to feel Gov. Sam Brownback's budget ax have begun whining, and the wail will reach epic proportions before the spending bills are done.

Every program has its supporters, of course. Usually, they're organized by the people who work for the programs. Thus, a couple of years ago when Republicans proposed changes (not cuts) in spending for federal lunch programs for senior citizens, cards were passed out and speeches made at senior lunches. Congress dropped the change like a hot potato.

On the block in Kansas, where the state faces a \$570 million revenue "shortfall" next year, are the budgets for the state arts commission and public broadcasting. Supporters already are howling. However, it's hard to make a case for a real need here.

Performing arts and broadcasting are not in short supply. Mass-appeal providers saturate the markets with material, some of it pretty good, a lot of it pretty awful. People pay to see both kinds.

Public support for the arts and broadcasting

tends to buy the type of show people won't pay for. We sympathize with people who might miss some of these programs, but it's hard to make a case for spending tax money on programs, live or broadcast, that few people want to see.

Tax money, after all, is not freely given. It is taken from people by force of law, and if necessary, by force of arms. If you do not believe that, try not paying your taxes.

That means government has a special responsibility to see that tax money is spent on things most of us agree on. For state government, roads, public safety, schools and colleges, health, welfare and a few others meet that definition.

It's hard for us to put performance, live or broadcast, into the same category. These programs tend to appeal to a minority, most of whom could afford to buy their own tickets. The morality of taxing poor people to finance programs for such an elite minority is questionable, to say the least. Especially when the state has no money.

These programs have produced some good work, but it's time for Kansas to let them go. It's also the right thing to do. — Steve Haynes



News From the Past

5 years ago - 2006

St. Francis Super's was closed Friday morning to do inventory on the store, and as of Tuesday, Dave Clark, chief executive officer for Village Markets LTD, said the sale of the grocery store was final. Village Markets, Denver, purchased the supermarket from Perk and Betty Odell.

20 years ago - 1991

Winners of the home lighting contest include: Johnnie and Marge Schorzman, first place; Rick and Dawn Lucas, second place; and Royce and Arlene Peter, third place. Earning honorable mention were the John Kite home, the Roger McQuigg home, the Lynn O'Leary home and the Tim Burr home.

The Majestic free feed was well attended Friday despite the cold temperature. Bud Erskin and his crew feed around 200 people.

Members of the junior high academic team, John Raile, Jeremiah Harrelson, Brian Davis, Amy Zwegardt, Lanissa DeGood, Sara Sherlock and Kary Erskin, will be in competition in Colby on the 16th.

Barbara Sample has been hired as a temporary county appraiser for Cheyenne County.

Richard Lee Hudson was the first baby of the year born at the Cheyenne County Hospital. His parents are Richard and Melissa of Bird City and he has a sister, Danielle, 5, and a brother, Justin, 18 months.

St. Francis Community High School seniors were given recognition of outstanding academic achievement by President Edward Hammond

of Fort Hays State University. This year's seniors had the best overall test results in school history. President Hammond had reviewed the ACT results from the past 7 years and St. Francis Community High School graduates had an outstanding success record of completing and being successful college students.

30 years ago - 1981

Marlin Queen and Kristi Lamb were the winners of \$100 scholarships from the St. Francis Masonic Lodge in the recently concluded essay contest.

Crystal Bracelin was installed as Honored Queen of Job's Daughters, Bethel 52, on Dec. 21. Lisa Kaufman is the senior princess and Kristi Ross, junior princess.

Michael Gabriel Jenkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Jenkins, was the first baby of the year born at the Cheyenne County Hospital. He arrived at 6:50 a.m. on Jan. 11 weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. He has a brother, Stephen Scott, age 2, to welcome him home.

Harold Winston, rural mail carrier in St. Francis since May 26, 1952, retired this month from the United States Postal Service. Counting his military service he retires with 32 years of government service.

Milton Lampe has purchased the old Brazier building from the Small Business Administration and has begun work on fixing up the building.

Tri-State Lumber employees put a new shake-covered awning up and the roof has been repaired.

Mary Bier is the new presi-

dent of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce.

50 years ago - 1961

The Citizens State Bank announced this week that they would soon install a night deposit facility for their banking customers. The burglar-proof deposit vault will be safety engineered to prevent anyone from fishing out deposits or getting the deposits trapped.

Two St. Francis high school graduates are members of the varsity wrestling squad at Fort Hays State College. Gerald Paxton and Dale Rath are juniors at the college and are listed on Coach Walter Kroll's 18-man varsity mat team.

Year-end statements of the three Cheyenne County Banks, Citizens State Bank and Cheyenne County State Bank of St. Francis and the Security State Bank of Bird City, indicate that deposits are at an all-time high for this particular time of year. On Dec. 31, 1960, the three banks had total deposits of \$8,093,476.05.

Schildts Radio and TV will hold their grand opening in their new business on East Washington Street on Saturday. The completely new building gives more display and work space for Schildts' complete line of radio and television sets.

Word has been released that St. Francis will have a new bowling alley this year. It will be locally owned and operated and will be equipped with Brunswick Bowling Equipment including automatic pinsetters. A group of St. Francis businessmen, Herbert Lampe, C.F. Hixon, Harold Raile and John Grace are the men who are putting up this addition to the business community.

Hangin' With Marge

Pictures by the Tubs

By Margaret Bucholtz



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About once a year I get started sorting old pictures. I always have the best intentions but it just doesn't work. I really don't think I am a hoarder, but I am darn close.

What do you do with all the pictures that your grandparents, parents and yourself have saved for the last hundred years?

My Grandmother Cooper loved taking pictures and she had a lot of pictures of her and her friends and family dating from the early 1900s. Then on top of the pictures are all of the postcards that she kept.

All of these are so interesting to

look at and read. It is like a story being unfolded when you sort through them. Postcards from Grandpa before they were married are always fun. He would write one line sentence saying, "Going to Benkelman Saturday night." Or "Been shucking corn this week" and there would be a picture of him in a wooden trailer loaded with corn and being pulled by a team of horses.

Anyway I get out a big tub of pictures and tell myself that today is the day I will pitch the ones I am not too interested in. Then hours later I put them back into the tub and go

place them on a shelf again. I can just image the fun my children and grandchildren will have when I pass on. I can see in them shaking their heads and wondering "Why?"

It would have been easier if I would have done it while I was younger, but now the memories cloud my better judgment as the tears run down my cheeks and I long for just one more chance to ask Mom or Dad just who is that person in the pictures.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



There is a joke about General George Armstrong Custer. Just before The Battle of the Little Big Horn he sent an Indian scout to have a peak over a hill to assess the enemies strength.

When the man returned he told the general that he had good news and bad news.

Bad news first: "Over the hill are many brave warriors and today you will certainly die."

So Custer asks for the good news.

"You won't have to cross Kansas anymore."

I kind of feel like one of the 19th century cavalry soldiers who got to know the terrain of this state. Between family and business matters, lately, I've left Northwest Kansas for forays to Wichita, Manhattan and Kansas City.

However, rather than looking for hostile savages, I get to spend the drive time looking at the poetic beauty of the large, open spaces. The beauty of the prairie grasslands and flint hills make for a spectacular canvas of landscape. Even the sleeping fields that will again sprout bountiful harvests remind one of the harmony between man and the land in the American "bread basket."

As the miles pass, my eyes soak in the majesty of Kansas, just as those who came before must surely also did.

I just have the luxury of driving on much better trails than General Custer and his troops.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Dave and Charlene Meyer, St. Francis; Ben Andrist, St. Francis; Gabe Gienger, Orlando Fla.; Marie Walker, Plainview, Texas; J.C. Hixon, Aurora, Colo.; Mike Bandel, St. Francis; Steve Workman, St. Francis; Manette Henderson, St. Francis; Laura Robbins, St. Francis; Melvin Schlepp, St. Francis; Gay Walz, St. Francis; Stroh Farms, St. Francis; Western Sprinklers, Colby; Rodney Ritchey, St. Francis; Tom Roelfs, St. Francis; Tammy Pettijohn, Agra; Pat and Vicki Cress, St. Francis; Chad Kincheloe, Des Plaines, Ill.; Gene Kincheloe, Evans, Colo.; Walter Kincheloe, St. Francis; Mary Zimbelman, McCook, Neb.; Geraldine Thacker, St. Francis; Dixie and

Aisa Burr, Brighton, Colo.; Amanda Stinenez, St. Francis; Debra Harper, St. Francis; Kenneth Zimbelman, Ozark, Mo.

Kathy McBride, St. Francis; Howard Clark, St. Francis; Gertrude Loyd, St. Francis;

GOD SAYS

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

II Chronicles 7:14

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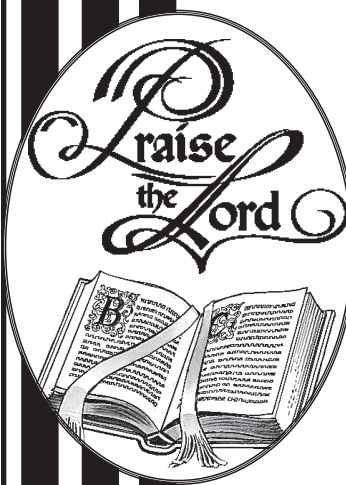
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Prayer Meeting, Wed
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Church Service 10:15 a.m.

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
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Worship 10:30 a.m.
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Service 6:30 p.m.,
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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.

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