



## Congress must act to save Social Security

The story comes around every year, and every year we – the people, Congress, the White House – shake our heads and tut – and ignore it.

Social Security is going broke. In as little as 21 years, by sometime in 2033, the fund's \$2.7 trillion surplus will be gone, benefits will exceed tax income and, by law, will be cut.

If it gets that far, there could be riots in the street out front of nursing homes. But surely, we can fix a problem, given two decades to do it. Can't we?

Think so? Remember, the Postal Service is going broke this year, and Congress and the president have done nothing – nothing – to fix the problem.

We've known about the Social Security issue for the last 20 or 30 years. Actuaries and accountants could look at the size of the Baby Boomer generation piling up that surplus and see that the coming; smaller generations coming up could not pay enough to support them.

But did Congress or any president do anything? Of course not. Few problems are solved in Washington until the last possible moment.

But Social Security is already out of balance. Since 2010, payments have exceeded income. The huge reserve masks that fact, but it won't go away. Until the system is broke.

Administrators says it would cost something like \$3.2 trillion to start fixing the problem right now. Every year, the cost will rise and the cure

will become more painful. But there's no hope Congress will move on the issue in an election year, or any coming year, for that matter.

The attitude is summed up by Sen. Bernie Sanders, a liberal independent from Vermont who heads the Senate Social Security caucus, as quoted by the Associated Press:

"Compared to other crises – the collapse of the middle class, real wages falling ..., 50 million people having no health insurance – how would I rate Social Security? Nowhere near as serious as these and many other problems."

In other words, "ignore it; maybe it'll go away."

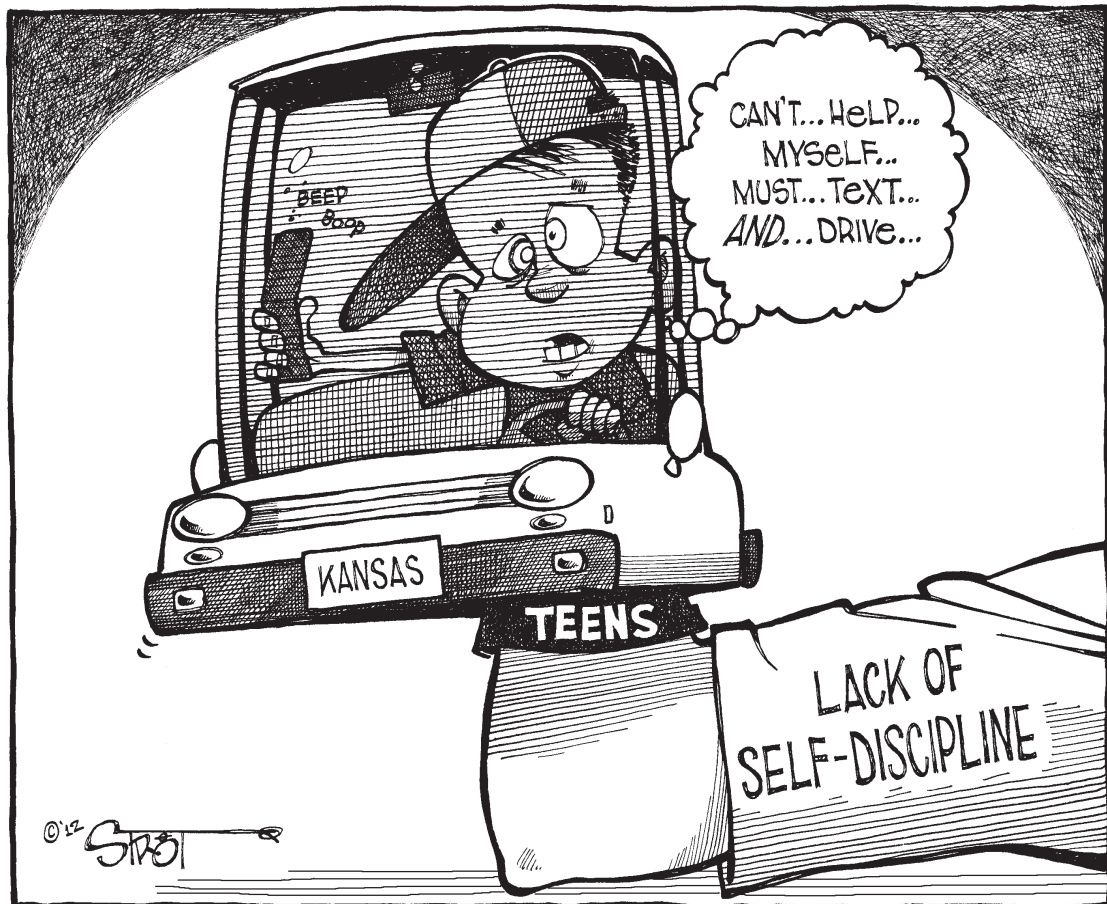
But it won't. Instead the problem will grow each year until it's too late. Just watch.

All this should scare the bejebbers out of anyone who believes the federal government can and should solve all our problems. While growing bigger and more bloated every year, the government also becomes more dysfunctional each year as well.

The fact is, the government can't solve our problems. It certainly can't manage the economy. Mostly, it can mess things up. Yet Americans continue to have faith that if we only do more of the same, or get better people in charge, things will change.

But that seldom works, just as ignoring a problem like Social Security never works.

— Steve Haynes



## Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



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### Fair Rides

Oh how I long for the good old days when I could climb on any ride at the fair and enjoy them. Now my life has changed and sometimes I stagger around with everything twirling around me.

Still I enjoy watching the grandchildren stand in the lines waiting for that moment of thrill.

Dina, Darrin's wife, asked me if someone had said anything to their youngest son Porter, about

the rides. I really didn't know, and she went on to tell me about it.

Porter had wanted to ride on the scrambler, but she just wasn't sure about it. He was only three years old but because he was so set on riding she finally decided they would try it.

When the ride started up his eyes got big and then he began laughing and having a great time. No fear what so ever.

After the ride stopped and they were walking down the exit he looked at his mom and said, "I liked it mom and I didn't pee my pants."

They never did figure out if someone told him he would pee his pants or if he just thought he might.

## The Gardener

By Kay Melia



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Most of us wouldn't know a genome from a giraffe. For the record, a giraffe is a long-necked quadruped, found in the zoo and in African jungles, and has nothing to do with what you are about to read. But I think I have your attention now.

On the other hand, a genome, simply put in layman's terms, is a kind of road map of the genetic makeup of just about any living organism you can name. If it were possible to "decode" that makeup, say of a tomato, then plant geneticists would likely have the capability of improving yield, nutrition, flavor, disease resistance, and color of the tomato, as well as other crops. Well, hang on to your spading fork and listen closely!

The decoding of the tomato genome, after decades of effort, has been accomplished!! According to the journal NATURE, May 31, 2012, the full genome sequence,

as well as the sequence of a relative growing in the wild, has been completed, due to the cooperation of top scientists around the world.

A global organization known as the Tomato Consortium, is responsible for the break-through. Dr. James Giovannoni, a scientist at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research located on the campus of Cornell University, led the American effort.

So what, you may ask, does all this mean to the average backyard tomato gardener? Well, it so happens that a tomato possesses 35,000 genes, arranged on 12 chromosomes. Dr. Giovannoni said "Just name any characteristic of a tomato, and we have captured virtually all those genes." That capture will allow scientists to move quickly to produce new varieties of tomatoes with specific characteristics such as better taste, higher yield, and perhaps even

better shipping quality from farm to supermarket. The discovery even has implications for other plant species. Strawberries, apples, melons, bananas, and many other fleshy fruits share some of the same genetic makeup as tomatoes, so information about the genes and pathways involved in fruit ripening can potentially be applied to them.

Whereas the first tomato genome decoding came at a cost of millions of dollars, future sequencing might cost only \$10,000 or less, by building on the initial findings concerning tomatoes.

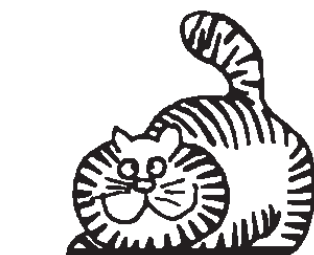
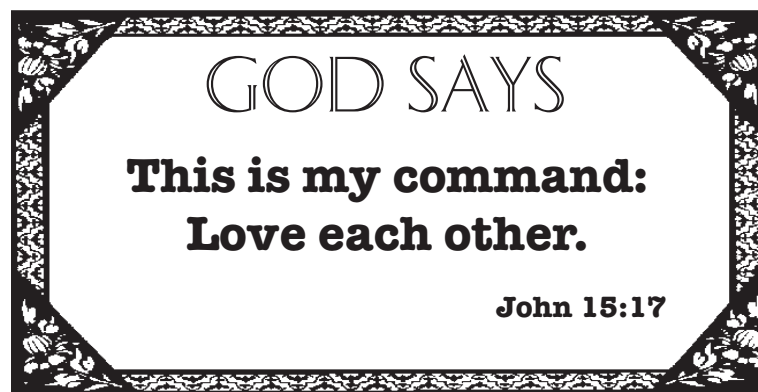
The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that Americans consume, on average, 72 pounds of tomatoes per person annually. The tomato has long been the world's favorite garden product, and represents an annual 82 billion dollar market in America alone! This is probably the most important scientific breakthrough in garden produce, ever!

Dr. Giovannoni, the Thompson Institute, Cornell University, The USDA, and many other nations have played a part. Tomato lovers, everywhere say "thank you" and we'll all be watching closely for results we can all understand.

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## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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"I'm as corny as Kansas in August."

No, I'm not trying out for a roll in South Pacific. It's just that I am sitting fat and happy after enjoying a couple ears of fresh, locally grown, Kansas sweet corn on the cob.

A farmer friend dropped a few ears off that he just picked. What a wonderful place this is. All around there is either a wholesome product growing from

God's green earth or something on its way toward being planted.

And if it is not of the seed variety then it is walking the land, being cared for people who know how important their animals are for feeding so many.

Yes, I am a little corny when it comes to blowing the horn for the farmers and ranchers of Kansas. I shudder to think where we would be without the safe and reliable supply of food that

they create. Where else would it come from? How much more would we have to pay? Not a pretty thought.

So as I slather another golden and white cob with real butter I will say "thank you" to our farmer friend and all others like him.

## Photo Policy

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or new happening that we should attend, please call 332-3162.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event. Because space is

so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

Laser prints of photos which have run in The Herald or Times are available, first come, first served. Special-order laser prints of photos will be available at \$3 each.

**Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 9 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.

**United Methodist**  
Church Office 332-2292,  
Church 332-2254,  
512 S. Scott  
Pastor Warren Cico  
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Seventh-Day**  
Adventist Church  
423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor James McCurdy  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

**St. Francis of Assisi**  
**Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 10:30 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  
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.stfcfamily.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 Randy Nelson  
Church 332-2928  
Parsonage 332-2312  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Communion 1st Sunday

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**Praise the Lord**