

## Cutting into programs tough on lots of people

The country will be stepping down an uncharted path this month as federal officials try to figure out how to cut 8.5 to 13 percent from their programs.

So far, despite dire predictions, no one has much noticed. The stock market hasn't bottomed out, the government keeps chugging along. Later, reports say, government employees may have to take one unpaid day off each week, state programs could be cut, the flow of federal money may slow, and the Department of Defense says it will lay off many civilian workers and contractors.

This was never supposed to happen, of course. When both parties agreed to the plan last year, everyone said it was too unpalatable ever to be allowed to go into effect. Then when the deadline came up two months ago, the two sides could only agree to put it off again.

The deal to keep things rolling at the end of the year covered tax breaks for nearly everyone and some of President Obama's tax hikes for the rich, though the 2-point reduction in the Social Security tax rate nearly everyone enjoyed was allowed to expire.

At the time, the Republicans said they wouldn't discuss any more tax increases. Apparently, they meant it.

Last week, Washington writer Bob Woodward reported that it was the White House that first suggested the plan and agreed to it. Now, the president wants to blame it all on the Republicans, who he says defend tax breaks for the rich. Yet they tell us now, taxes on the rich are the

highest they have been in half a century.

Who's right?  
Who's wrong?  
Who knows?

Blame it on a system where posture and position are more important than results. A system where inaction often produces the desired results, where no one wants to give an inch for compromise, not when they think they have the upper hand.

Today, it's Mr. Obama and the Democrats who think they have the better hand. The Republicans, in control of the House of Representatives, have to posture and delay.

Where once the Democrats had promised to negotiate program cuts, since the election they say they need more tax increases to keep spending up. The Republicans say they aren't willing to talk about that.

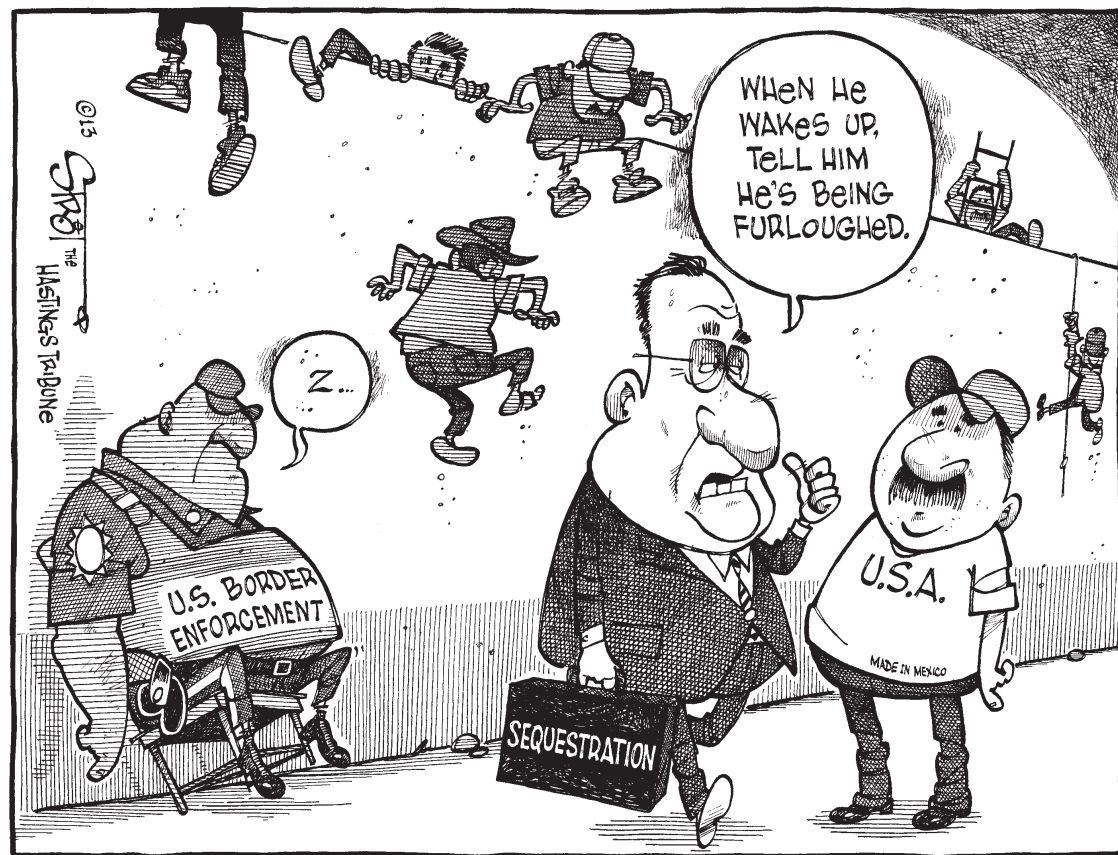
Meanwhile, federal workers, states and people who depend on federal programs all are waiting to see what happens. No doubt, many will be hurt as this progresses.

Across-the-board cuts, by their nature, are rough, unpredictable, messy. But there's been no drama. The government has not shut down.

The spending problem remains. The government has been borrowing 40 cents of every dollar it spends. Something has to change there, and if it takes sequestration, as they're calling the mandatory cuts, to bring an agreement, then maybe that's what has to happen.

It's way past time to talk about the issue.

- Steve Haynes



## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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I love coffee! It is my "life blood" in the morning which motivates any and all activity.

So what did I tell the lovely Lezlie when she said, "Why don't we give up coffee for lent?" Of course I responded, "You bet.... it'll be easy."

Understandably, the lenten sacrifice is meant to be something that brings Christians closer to their Savior. By our small gesture we are reminded of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness without food and water while the devil tempted him.

So rather than cry about not having our morning coffee, we are enjoying hot tea instead.

There is something old worldly and thoughtful about having hot tea. I'm reminded of my grandmother McIntyre who would tell us kids, "a true Scotsman only puts lemon in his tea." Also, it would be hard to imagine "the Boston coffee party."

For Lez's birthday we even went to some friend's home to enjoy tea, cake and conversation. It was a very well-to-do affair.

In addition another friend got

me to try chai tea. I had wondered what all the excitement was about and had my curiosity satisfied with finding that it is simply tea with spices added. That gives the drink a nice kick.

I doubt that once lent is over I will be a convert to the drink of my ancestors. Chances are that morning cup of Joe will be what I want. But for now tea is a good substitute.

## Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



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### The Internet

Probably over 20 years ago I remember going to a town meeting about getting internet in St. Francis. As I sat there and listened to some of the people that already had it tell about the wonders of the cyber highway, I thought to myself why would anyone have to know all of that stuff.

They talked about how you would be able to go shopping and never leave your home. How dumb was that?

Now, many years later, I don't know how we survived. For instance today I wanted to mix up

some chalk paint and try painting a stand with that. About a month ago I made some milk paint. However there are two things that bother me now. The first one is that when I typed in chalk paint there are several recipes for the same thing. I went and bought the ingredients for the first one I had read and then came home with a big bucket of plaster Paris and started looking over the recipes again. Of course the one with the plaster Paris wasn't this gal's favorite but I decided to go with it anyway. I will let you know on a later post

how it turns out.

Meanwhile back to the second thing that happened to me on the internet is that with so many options and directions for whatever I am looking I just can't remember all of what it tells me. So instead of handwriting it down, I learned the cut and paste.

While I was researching writing articles and the proper noun structures I wanted to have that to study so I just cut and pasted it. A few sentences later I did the same thing.

Image how I must of felt when I tried for the third time to read it the web site popped up with red letters that said, "You are banned from this site for suspicious activity."

I was so shocked I knew you can't sell it nor can you write it, but I thought "gees I am an old lady and I can't remember and I just wanted to be able to re-read this."

Several months later I went back to the site just to see what it said and it let me on. I learned a good lesson and now I bookmark so I can get back and study.

## 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.

GOD SAYS Even so the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! James 3:5

The Saint Francis Herald (USPS 475-960) A Century of Service to Cheyenne County 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@nwkansas.com STAFF Karen Krien Editor/Publisher Tim Burr Advertising Manager Lezlie McCormick Production Margaret Bucholtz Columnist

## The Gardener

By Kay Melia



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On the cover of their little 5x8 inch catalog, the words 'WE KNOW ONIONS' jump right out at you; gets your undivided attention!

I dearly love onions! But I can't remember how I discovered this family-owned onion production facility, but I'm grateful I did. And as a result, they have been supplying me, and a lot of my gardening friends, with beautiful, healthy, dependable onion plants for many years.

This place is called Dixondale Farms, and they perform their magic just a few miles outside Carrizo Springs in the southwest part of Texas.

It isn't often that I make an effort to convince my friends that a product I use seems better to me than another, but I have a definite bias when it comes to Dixondale Farms, and I promise you that I'm not on their payroll!

Dixondale Farms is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. The company was founded in 1913 by John Mabson McClendon, and is now headed by his great-granddaughter Jeanie Frasier and her husband Bruce, as well as other family

members. That's four generations and 100 years of service.

The aforementioned catalog, sent out every December to their customers, and their website, are veritable history books of successful onion plant production. Their plants, as well as their distribution system, are literally marvels of success. As a result, Dixondale Farms is now the largest grower of onion plants in the nation. Not only do they sell to individual gardeners like you and me, but they also supply hundreds of garden centers and greenhouses all across America.

On this, their 100th anniversary, Dixondale developed and is now offering a new variety of onion to their mail order customers only. It's called "Texas Legend" and we can expect it to be at least as sweet and mild as it's famed parent, the 1015y Texas Supersweet, one of the most celebrated sweet onions in the nation. Texas Legend is a large yellow onion, packed with food value, and is actually an open pollinated "short day" onion, which means it thrives best in areas south of our High Plains. But I can hardly wait to plant a row of them in this, their first year

of distribution!

Dixondale Farms offers about 25 different varieties of onion plants. Please understand that they do NOT sell onion sets, those little bubbles that you plant if you want to grow scallions or green onions. Their plants are divided into offerings for the northern part of the nation, for the central portion, and for the south, and there is no question as to which ones should grow best for you. There is also a section of their catalog devoted to onion fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides and other helpful supplies, and invaluable growing advice.

Dixondale Farms doesn't sell Vidalia onions. Vidalia is a privately owned brand sold only in a small area of Georgia. But get this! Dixondale Farms sells Georgia farmers the seed for their Vidalia crop!

If you enjoy growing big sweet onions, you'll love everything about the big family farm near Carrizo Springs, Texas!

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 10:30 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. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos 1st Sunday of the month Morning Mass 8:30 am Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30 Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday Seventh-Day Adventist Church 423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams Pastor James McCurdy Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45 First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Church Service 10 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 Randy Nelson Church 332-2928 Parsonage 332-2312 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday St. Francis Equity St. Francis Herald