

Local sales tax necessary to keep town livable

We've heard people say they don't shop at home because of the high sales taxes and "there's nothing to buy here anyway."

This seems to us like something that is half myth and half self-fulfilling prophecy.

If you don't shop at home, the stores here will go out of business and there really won't be anything to buy.

How would you like to have to go 30 or 50 miles to fill up your car? That could happen if you drive to the next town to buy all your gas.

How about running out of essentials, like bread and milk. How would you want to drive to Walmart to get that last ingredient you need for supper?

And health care. If you always go out of town to see the doctor and dentist, the day you suffer that heart attack or break a tooth, you may find that you have to go a long ways to get help because the doctors and dentist, the pharmacists and therapists couldn't make a living here and moved to that other town.

And yes, you have to pay sales tax on just about everything you purchase. It isn't much lower anywhere else, except on food.

But ask yourself, "What does that sales tax buy me?"

It buys you a swimming pool, parks and summer baseball. It helps pay for the ambulance service, fire departments, police protection and other public services. It helps pay for state highways

and services, and especially, for schools.

Sure, most of us pay property taxes, but those aren't enough to pay for everything the city and county and state are expected to provide for us. It does take a lot of money to educate our children.

The money from sales taxes helps keep the property taxes down and pay for all those things that the county does - upkeep on roads, the landfill, helping the hospital and nursing home.

These are all things people think need to be done and expect the county to do. But somebody, somewhere has to pay for all these things.

And so what happens when you go elsewhere to shop - to McCook, Goodland, Colby?

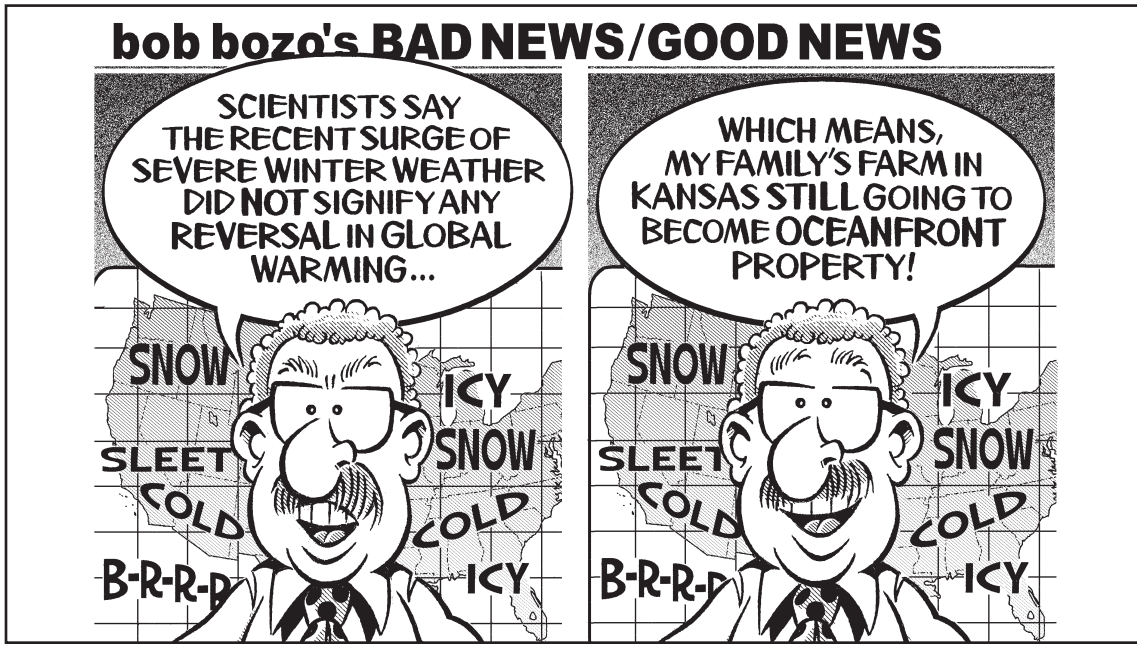
They get the sales tax. Their streets get fixed. Their elderly get cared for. Their parks get watered and their swimming pool gets financed. And don't believe you don't pay sales tax when you shop in Nebraska. They may not have tax on groceries, but you'll never go to a store there and not bring back something that is not taxed.

Even many Internet sales are now being taxed.

So, while we're not against an occasional shopping trip, we believe that when you shop at home, you're taking the long view of protecting what's important and doing yourself a favor.

Keeping your home town livable is pretty important, and the businesses we have are one of the main benefits of a town like ours.

- Cynthia Haynes



Long-term care is priority

To the Editor,

In light of the report in *The Herald* of Jan. 9, let's look at some additional comment on what was reported relating to the county commission meeting of Dec. 31.

Mission. Our primary mission is to operate a skilled residential home and senior apartments in Cheyenne County as a service to the citizens of Cheyenne County. The main focus is NOT "Administrator shows money made for home."

Breaking Even. We do try to operate in the black so as not to require any operational support from county taxpayers. Incoming revenue is not a steady stream, but fluctuates month to month depending on the number of residents and the severity of their medical conditions. As reported in *The Herald*, I report every month to the county, which now owns the Good Samaritan properties. We had a surplus in November, but that does not mean that it is an upward trend. We keep

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the room charges below the Kansas average because we know that many residents and their families are spending their own money to cover room and board expenses at the Village.

Change of Responsibility in July 2013. As for last year January thru June, the county had no financial stake in Village operations until July 1. There is no reason to presume that the accounting report was implying a shift in costs onto the county. The Society covered losses from January thru June. From July through November, the county covered a combined operating loss of -\$8795. We'll see how year-end turns out.

Budget and Improvements. There is money in the 2014 budget, in accordance with the Aug. 2011 public referendum, to fund upgrades of the 1960s era portion of the building. There is no efficient

cooling system. For heating, the room heater blowers are 50 years old and spare parts are not available. Additional areas for improvement were listed in the article.

Assisted Living. There is no initiative at present to look at the provision of assisted living in Cheyenne County. If this is something considered desirable for the future, a citizen's interest group should be working along with the county commission to get the ball rolling.

The transition in long-term care from Good Samaritan ownership to county ownership has gone remarkably well. The working relationship is mutually beneficial and there is no reason to think it will be any different in the coming year.

JC Paulsen, administrator
Good Samaritan Society
of Cheyenne County

Casey's Comments

AD and BC confusion explored

By Casey McCormick



I was asked recently about our calendar and whether AD was when Christ was born or died. This required a little research (thank goodness that college training still pays off). Here it is.

AD stands for "anno Domini" which is short for "anno Domini Nostri Iesu Christi" which translates from Medieval Latin into, "in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ."

BC basically is defined as "before

Christ." So the Julian and Gregorian calendars begin with the birth in BC 1 and Christ turning one-year-old in AD 1.

This system was not developed until the early 6th Century, 500 years after the events, when the pope wanted to designate the correct date for Easter. The calendar's use still did not really take off until around 800.

Some confusion lies in the mistake

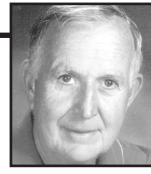
of translating AD as "after death." The problem with this notion is that it would not take into consideration the 33 years that Jesus was here.

Common thought now is that Christ was actually born between 4 or 5 BC and that the time of His crucifixion was in AD 30.

My thanks to Dale Patton and Kelly Hilt for providing inspiration for this week's column.

Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy



120th State Representative

The first day of this year's legislative session was Jan. 13. I arrived in Topeka on Saturday, Jan. 11, to get my office and committee work organized. I was pleased to find out that my assignments are the same: Appropriations, Education Budget Chairman, and vice-chair of Education. Education will be in the forefront this year and that will make for a very difficult session for me and many others.

Last year the session went 10 days over time. The cause of the extension was the debate over whether or not to extend a sales tax increase to help pay for income tax cuts produced from the year before. A compromise was made and a portion of the sales tax was retained to help pay for the tax cuts.

The major problem this year is that a lower court ruled the legislature must appropriate \$440 million more into kindergarten-12 public schools in order to meet its constitutional mandate to provide a suitable education for each Kansas child. The Kansas Supreme Court has the case and could rule on it at any time. If the court rules in favor of the lawsuit it would make for a very difficult session.

As much as I believe in education, I am not in favor of the lawsuit. The big question mark is when the Supreme Court will make a ruling? The Supreme Court and the

executive and legislative body are certainly not all on the same page or on the best of terms. I personally feel that we should do everything possible to avoid a crisis but some of my colleagues revel in confrontation.

Wednesday evening the Governor will give his "State of the State" address and that will give us a strong idea on the direction he plans to pursue. Last year we adopted a two year budget. I fought hard to not allow cuts for Colby Community College and Northwest Kansas Technical College. The cuts were not made but are scheduled to be cut this year. I am hoping the Governor includes appropriations for those entities in his adjustments.

Every year I find out more about what a tough job being a State Representative can be. This year the Kansas Bankers and Realtors

GOD SAYS
But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.
Matthew 12:36

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Healthier farm crops sought

To the Editor,

Farmers: Help wanted

Callicrate Cattle Company is urging Cheyenne County farmers and landowners to consider planting non-GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms) crops.

More than thirty countries and many food companies ban GMOs or are putting bans in place. The U.S., in its refusal to listen to the customer, continues to lose more export markets as a result of its biased support of GMO technology. Failing to deliver on promises of higher yields and less pesticide use, Monsanto is using its market domination of the seed industry to force farmers to buy exorbitantly high-priced seeds and chemicals, while eliminating non-modified varieties. Over 90 percent of our nation's corn acres are now genetically modified, with nearly 100 percent of the genetics controlled by one company - Monsanto.

Thirty-five years ago, I was part of a local group that built

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the first commercial feed yard in Cheyenne County. We didn't suspect at the time that the biggest meat packers in the country were already unfairly cooperating to lower the price of livestock and capture our markets, essentially designing the fools-game we call a marketplace today. Since then, we have lost nearly half of our nation's ranchers, more than 90 percent of our hog farmers, and more than 85 percent of our dairies. According to the Wall Street Journal, more than 2,000 feed yards went out of business just last year. Poultry production is now totally captured by multinational companies dictating a vertically integrated system of confinement production, environmental degradation and morally questionable production practices. Today's unprecedented corporate control over livestock production and farming has malformed agriculture into a profit-at-all-costs agribusiness

that depletes our resources and eliminates genetic diversity. The U.S. in now a net food importer on a value basis. We are unable to feed ourselves!

At Callicrate Cattle Company, we continue our commitment of building a healthy alternative to the extractive industrial food system. For the last 14 years, our Colorado Springs-based ranch-to-retail company Ranch Foods Direct has worked at building a model of processing and wholesale/retail distribution that connects farmers and ranchers more directly to consumers, providing good local food while improving farm and ranch income.

Please consider supporting the rapidly growing demand for healthier food while helping restore good health to our land and community - plant non-GMO crop varieties.

Mike Callicrate
St. Francis

<p>Church of Christ 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos 1st Sunday of the month Morning Mass 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams Pastor James McCurdy Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC 202 N. College Pastor Randy Nelson Church 332-2928 Parsonage 332-2312 Worship 9:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday</p>
<p>First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:15 a.m.</p>		

