

Highway fund running out of money very soon

There's still a chance Congress will act before the latest money crisis hits the wall, but only a chance.

The administration is pushing for action on the Highway Trust Fund, which will run out of money sometime in late August. Without a bipartisan fix, states would have to shut down most highway projects, putting thousands of workers out of their jobs. The economy, still struggling to recover from the late recession, could grind to a halt.

Why? The federal government pays 80 to 90 percent of most highway improvements and upgrades out of the fund, but the times have not been kind to it.

The trust fund comes mainly from federal taxes on highway fuel, gasoline and diesel, plus other road-related fees. These haven't been raised in years, though people are driving less and using less fuel, and construction costs have soared.

No one wants to vote for a tax increase, especially in an election year, no matter the need. And here is a tax where you know how the money will be spent. Most of us will be able to see a direct benefit from better roads.

But raising taxes of any kind is one of the "third rail" issues in Washington. The third rail is the one that carries high voltage to power commuter trains and subways back East. No one wants to touch it.

The trust fund has been in bad shape for years. Between the government forcing manufacturers to build smaller, more efficient cars, high fuel

prices and people driving less to save money, revenue is down. Then there are electric or hybrid cars and propane- or natural-gas-power trucks, more of them all the time. Right now, they pay little or no road tax.

State officials have seen this coming for years. Many believe we'll have to switch to a miles-driven tax, but that will be painful to pay and hard to administer. Others just hope we'll keep raising the old taxes as costs go up.

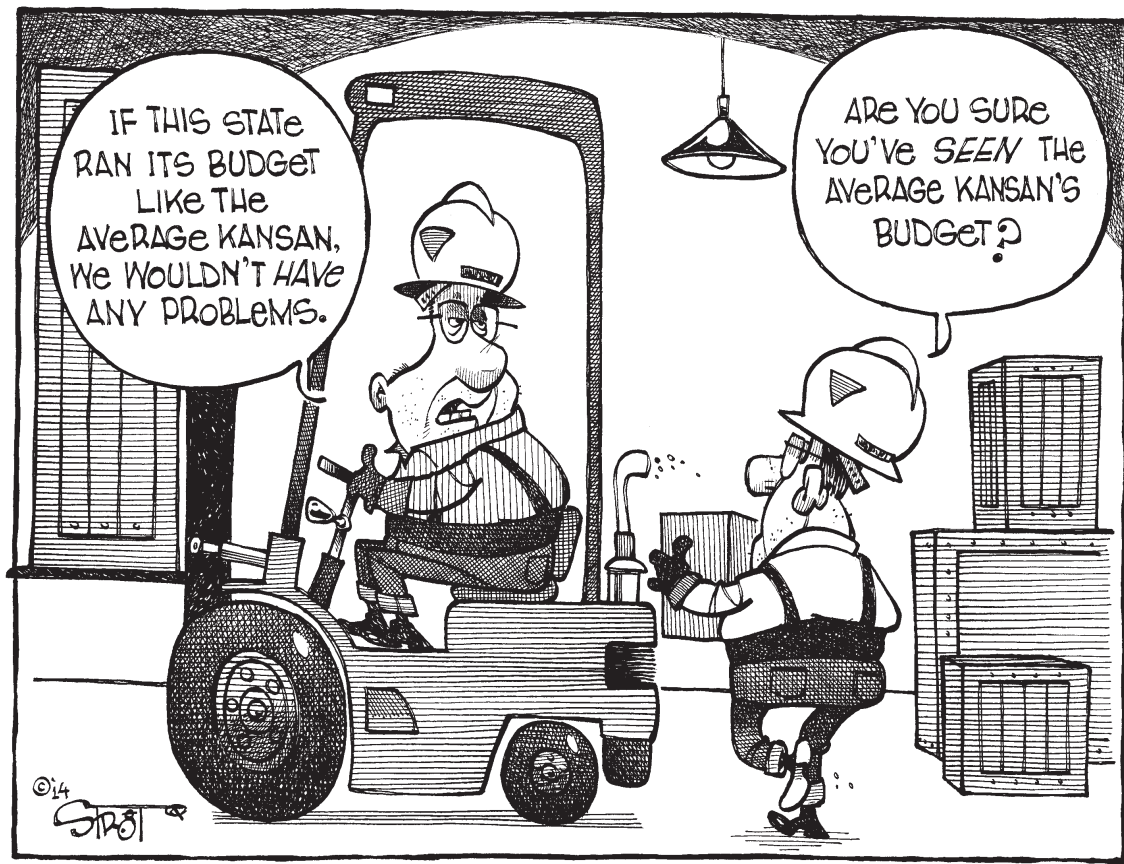
We don't expect Congress to tackle these lofty issues, not this year, with an election coming on and then a lame duck session. The best we expect to see is a temporary patch, a last-minute fix in the best Washington style that will get the country by for a few months.

That might not be exactly statesmanlike, but you don't expect much statesmanship in an election year. Everyone is too worried about getting re-elected.

The highway fund has barely been able to keep up with the nation's deteriorating roads and bridges the last few years, even though Congress has been throwing general-fund tax money in to keep up its commitments.

That has kept the road program going, but with the deficit, it's like using money the government doesn't have to build roads. It's standard practice in Washington, but we shouldn't keep it up forever.

Meantime, the need will only grow, and any permanent fix will get more painful as time goes by. Now is the time for Congress to act, before the money runs out. — Steve Haynes



Sainty is still having fireworks

Citizens of St. Francis,

The Fourth of July Fireworks show and celebration will go on!

The St. Francis Fireworks Board met this weekend to plan the St. Francis Fourth of July celebration. There are donation buckets at all the banks and most of the businesses around town. Fireworks will be ordered next week and we still need \$3,900 to be able to put on the fireworks show.

The day will begin at the city park for the Kid's Parade and games. So get your bikes, wagons and strollers decorated with red, white and blue. Immediately

Letters to the Editor

following the parade and games, there will be a barbecue in the park put on by the Cheyenne County 4-H Archery team.

At 7 p.m., behind Parkhill, there will be games such as ladder golf, disk dunk and horse-shoes. To the east of Parkhill on Knorr's lot there will be kid's fireworks. All these activities will wrap up around 9:45 in time for the fireworks show.

If there is money left after the show, it will be reported in The St. Francis Herald and kept in the

St. Francis Fireworks bank account for next year.

This show will only be possible with your donations. If you have any questions please contact any board member.

It's not too early to make plans for celebration the Fourth here in your hometown!

Sincerely,
The St. Francis Fireworks Board,
John Amack, Anita Amack, Brett Poling, Cynthia Poling, Gilbert Sherlock, Wade Krien, Holly Hingst, Ed Marin, A.J. Marin

Moments With Mila

West Nile Virus

By Mila Bandel



County Health Nurse

West Nile virus is most commonly transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. The most effective way to avoid West Nile virus disease is to prevent mosquito bites. Be aware of the West Nile virus activity and take action to protect yourself and your family.

When outdoors, use repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or para-menthane-diol. Follow the directions on the package.

Many mosquitoes are most active from dusk to dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours. Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out. Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels. Change the

water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.

Most people who become infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms. About one in five people who are infected will develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash.

Most people with this type of West Nile virus disease recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months. Less than 1 percent of people who are infected will develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis (inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissues).

For treatment, there are no vaccines or specific antiviral treatments for the West Nile virus infection available. Over-the-counter pain relievers can be used to reduce fever and relieve some symptoms. In severe cases, patients often need to be

hospitalized to receive supportive treatment, such as intravenous fluids, pain medication, and nursing care.

In nature, West Nile virus cycles between mosquitoes and birds. Some infected birds can develop high levels of the virus in their bloodstream and mosquitoes can become infected by biting these infected birds.

Some, but not all infected birds get sick and die of disease. One way health officials conduct surveillance for West Nile virus is by testing local birds. Finding dead birds may be a sign that West Nile virus is circulating between birds and the mosquitoes in an area.

By reporting dead birds to the local health departments, you can play an important role in monitoring West Nile virus. If you find a dead bird: Don't handle the body with your bare hands. For more information on West Nile virus contact the Cheyenne County Health Department at 785-332-2381.

Reader doesn't believe in evolution

Mothers do evolutionists deny? Every mother, of all the species on God's Earth - createth in her gestation time - from egg to birth -

new individual. If evolution were true. Why hath not a more sophisticated process evolved?? "For vain man would be wise; though

he be born; like a wild ass's colt." Job 11:12

Frank Sowers Benkelman, Neb.

Casey's Comments

Where do you find the truth?

By Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

Where do you find the truth? Last week was such a conflict of extremes concerning soldiering.

In celebrating the 70th anniversary of D-day, stories were retold of brave sacrifices made by the fighting men who attacked a well fortified enemy on the French beaches. It is with awe that they remain in our conscience.

On the other hand is the tale of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl.

For one thing, I thought our policy as a nation was not to negotiate with terrorists. Apparently we are willing to trade five for one and it's no big deal.

As for Bergdahl, I doubt that we will ever know the truth about

whether he was a good soldier who became a POW or if he was a traitor. The problem is, how he will be viewed now, entirely, is in the hands of the network media.

Depending on what slant is needed to insure that their mes-

sage comes through, the only certainty is that what really happened will not be told.

It's not that we, "can't handle the truth." But rather, we won't get the truth.

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Corrections

The Saint Francis Herald will correct or clarify any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at 332-3162 to report errors. We believe that news stories should be fair and factual, and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

GOD SAYS

These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Proverbs 6:16-19

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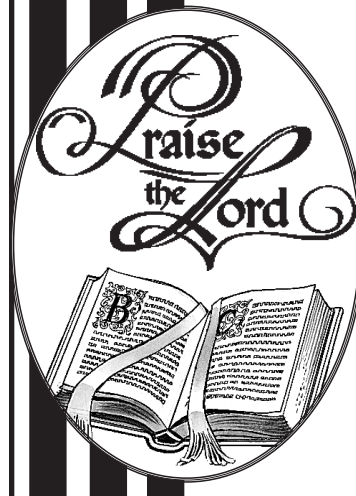
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<p>Church of Christ 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos 1st Sunday of the month Morning Mass 8:30 am 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. Gildewell, 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 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 10:30 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>	<p>St. Francis Equity</p>	<p>Saint Francis Herald</p>



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