

Legislators need to decide how much and where

It seems certain the Kansas Legislature is going to put another \$400 million to half a billion a year into public schools over the next few years.

No one seems to know how the state will pay for this, beyond the first year. Revenue projections don't show the state bringing in enough to make ends meet, but then a few years ago, the projections showed the state having a lot more money than it actually got. A rising tide makes all the difference.

And while there may be a lot of support for increasing the school budget, it's the Legislature — not the courts — that needs to decide how much and where it comes from.

There is no groundswell among voters or business people for a tax increase, no matter the reason. The results of the last election ought to convince people of that.

Relying on gambling expansion to finance schools is a bad idea, bad because gambling is destructive, and bad because it's not a reliable source of money.

There's just something repulsive about paying for kids' education with sin taxes, any way you slice it.

So the Legislature, faced with a Supreme Court order to come up with more money before it goes home, needs to shift around existing dollars and new income from a growing economy to find the money for schools. It's not going to be easy.

The members will have to keep in mind, as Chancellor Robert Hemmenway at the University of Kansas says, that it makes little sense to educate kids

through high school and not provide a decent higher education.

Kansas colleges have been starving the last few years as public schools and welfare soaks up every available dollar from the state budget.

Nor can the Legislature expect to take much out of the highway fund, lest the state default on its promises under the 10-year transportation plan.

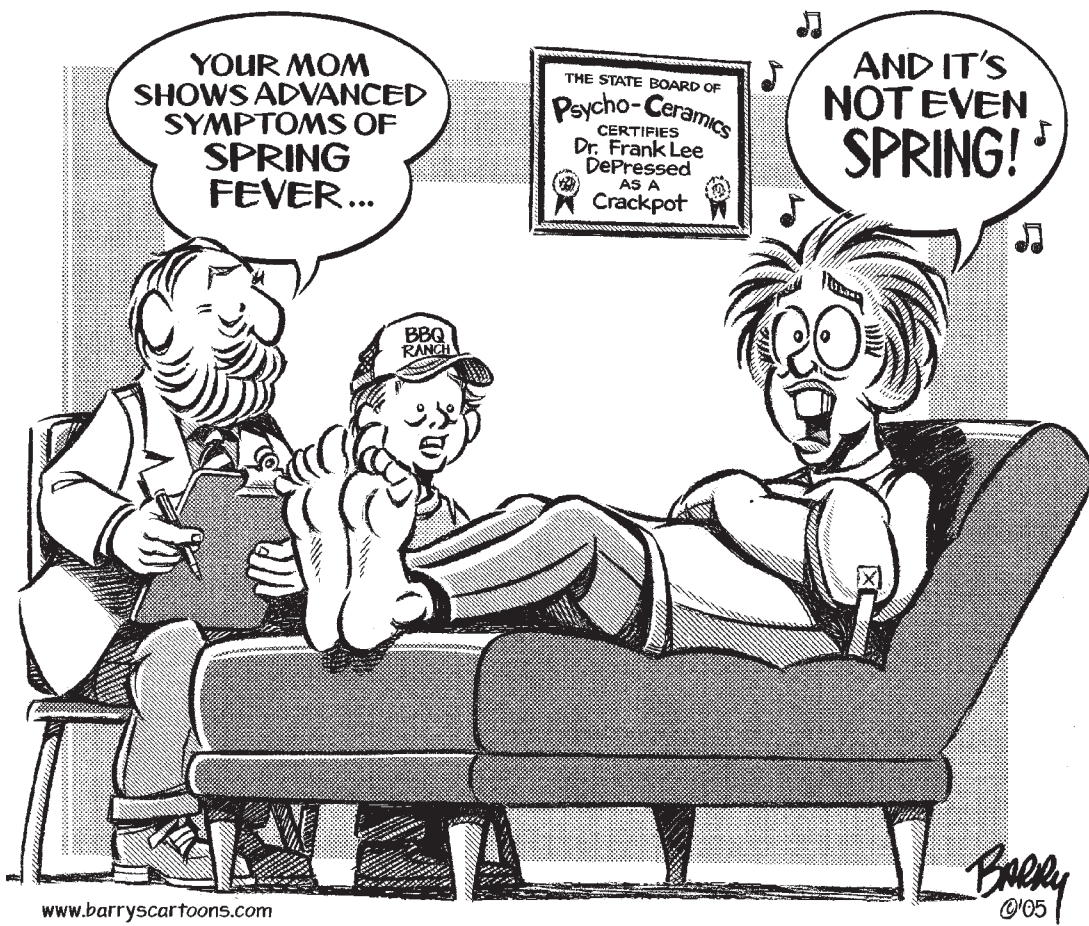
The devils in the works, it seems, include social programs, from public assistance to help for the disabled, Medicaid and welfare. These programs have grown uncontrollably during the recession. Even today, they show little sign of slacking off, and many are considered "entitlements," which the state has to pay for whether it has the money or not.

Special-interest groups keep pushing for more money for these programs, and at even a hint of cuts, they organize demonstrations in front of the State house. It's hard to be firm with people in wheelchairs. It looks mean.

The Legislators will have to balance all that out and do the best they can. That may not be good enough for the courts, but then, the courts have no power to raise taxes. At least, we hope they don't.

The best anyone can hope for is that the economy will keep improving and there'll be money to cover all the bases. If not, there is nothing writ in stone that says the state government has to grow every year.

— Steve Haynes



www.barrycartoons.com

News From the Past

10 years ago - 1995

Co-directors Rachael Keller and Ethel Whitten have retired from cooking at the senior citizens center. Loma McAttee is the new head cook. The St. Francis Senior Citizen Center was started in 1976. Raedell Winston and Marguerite Magley, through The American Association of University Women, wrote and received a grant to do something special for the community. That grant was the start of the senior center.

15 years ago - 1990

Bud Erskin, owner of Majestic Service, reported that the fourth annual free feed was successful with over 200 people being served.

The popcorn popper at the Cheyenne County Museum was believed to have been first used by Elmer Moberly during parades and on the street corner. Later J.B. Roshong purchased it for the Cheyenne Theater. It was last used at the high school where it popped many boxes of corn for sports spectators.

At the first St. Francis Music Club meeting of the new year Mindy Kite performed on her concert harp.

Rod's Locksmith Shop is now open. Rodney Ritchey recently graduated from the Foley-Belsaw Institute of Locksmithing.

Amber Dunn, a sophomore at St. Francis Community High School, will be traveling to Brazil where she will be participating in the Youth For Understanding program as an exchange student. Amber chose Brazil be-

cause she always felt like it was a mysterious place.

Raymond Zwegardt was elected chairman of the board of the Cheyenne County Commissioners during the reorganizational meeting of the commissioners.

25 years ago - 1980

The Golden Years was the theme of the 50th annual Kansas Day celebrated in Bird City. There were 132 registered visitors. Restored and heirloom trucks were displayed by the Bird City Town and Country and Kanred Extension Units.

A sample band uniform for the high school band will be available for board members to see at the next School Board meeting.

Awards were presented to local farmers at the Cheyenne County Conservation District annual meeting. The Goodyear Soil Conservation Award went to Ralph and Gary Seymour; and Bankers Awards went to Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Schleppe and son Spencer, Royce Cook; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Douthit, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Douthit and Steve Douthit, who operate Douthit Brothers Farms and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cook received the Terrance Maintenance Award.

St. Francis, Bird City and McDonald will soon have 0-4 dialing available as additional equipment is being installed by in the Southwestern Bell Telephone offices in those cities.

Glenn Glasco was reelected as president of the Fair Board. Also reelected were Ron Curry as vice president, Bill Pugh as treasurer and Jim Milliken as secretary.

30 years ago - 1975

Construction has begun on the

addition to the clubhouse at Riverside Recreation. It is progressing with members of the club doing the work.

Ann and Jack Maring of Bird City were chosen the "Most Authentically Dressed" at the 45th annual Kansas Day program held in Bird City.

Henry Hilt received an award for his 12 years of service on the Board of Supervisors of the Cheyenne County Soil Conservation District.

Blake Waters has been accepted as a member of *Seventeen* magazine's Sounding Board. He is a senior at St. Francis Community High School.

Rehearsals are beginning for the Theater '75 production of "The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker." Brain Burgstahler is the manager. The play is sponsored by the St. Francis Music Club.

After selling general merchandise to the St. Francis Community for most of 35 years, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Watkins officially ended their operation of the Watkins Varsity Store on Feb. 1.

The St. Francis Garden Club has taken on the project of beautification of the city park, known also as the Howard T. Sawhill Park.

40 years ago - 1965

Pastor Donald W. Behrens will be installed as the new minister at the Trinity Lutheran Church in S. Francis on Feb. 7. Pastor and Mrs. Behrens and their five children came to St. Francis from Oxford, Neb.

Hangin' With Marge

Men vs. Women

By Margaret Bucholtz



I really don't know how most women feel about this idea, but I have given it a lot of thought. What is it that makes men and women so different in how they think, feel about certain issues and, last but not least, how easy they (men) have it when it comes to appearances?

Have you ever been visiting with your boyfriend or husband and you

are telling them about how wonderful a book or movie is or about a vacation you would like to go on and you look at them and they have this gleam glowing in their eyes? At that moment you think "yes" they are listening. Then you ask, "What are you thinking about honey?" Only to hear him said, "I saw the neatest car the other day" or "Oh,

I'm sorry, I was just thinking about that job I was working on today, did you say something?"

This is the decision that I have come to.

How many hours a day, month or year do we, as women, spend worrying about what men are thinking? That is a total waste of energy!

Single men are thinking "women." Young married men are thinking "women" and old married men are thinking "Wonder where I put the remote."

On the appearance issue, a man showers, shaves his face, combs his hair and dresses. Women on the other hand, shower, shave their legs, blow dry and curl their hair and spend about an hour looking for the proper thing to wear. This is only on an average day for most women. They still have to work in days of coloring their hair, shaping their eyebrows and struggle with a diet while all the time they, too, are working at a job.

Still I am glad that there is a difference as it makes life a lot more exciting. Can you imagine how boring an evening at home would be if you didn't have the remote to look for? For all the older wives, if you are still bored after the search for the remote, try this trick. When the phone rings on the television, talk them into answering the phone for you. At least you get to see them move!

Famous Quotes

* It makes all the difference whether you hear an insect in the bedroom or in the garden. - Robert Lynd
* Never cut what you can untie. - Joseph Joubert
* Everyone has foolish ideas, but

the wise man keeps them to himself. - Wilhelm Busch

* Every joy is gain. And gain is gain, however small. - Robert Browning

* Most people who have been done a favor consider it an opportunity to show their incorruptibility rather than their gratitude. This is not only considerably cheaper morally but it sometimes increases their pride so much that pretty soon they look down on their benefactor. - Arthur Schnitzler



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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Worship Warms the Heart

Wesleyan Church
Hwy 36 • 734-2727
Pastor Scott Baker
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

Grace Assembly of God
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899
208 E. 2nd
Rev. Rob Meyer
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
332-2928 Pars. 332-2308
Pastor David Rossbach
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

First Christian Church
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Pastor Tony Christians
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jim Martin
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

St. Francis of Assisi
Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Beryl Gibson
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

Living Water Fellowship Ministry
Pastors:
Terry & Tiffany Glasco
Downtown Bird City
785-734-2363

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150 • 216 W. Washington
Pastor: Richard Garcia
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis Equity

Knodel Funeral Home

202 S. Benton • St. Francis
785-332-3131

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

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening
Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wednesday prayer
service, 6:00 p.m.
Wed. AWANA Club
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150 • 216 W. Washington
Pastor: Richard Garcia
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

First National Bank
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