

Tax payers need to know how money was spent

With any luck, the dispute over disclosure of money spent by school districts to sue the state over school finance will be headed to court soon.

Kansas taxpayers deserve to know where this money — now more than \$3.2 million in tax funds — went and how it was spent.

The lawyer running this sorry show, Alan Rupe of Wichita, at first claimed his organization, known as Schools for Fair Funding, is exempt from the state Open Records Act. How that could be, given that all its money comes apparently from public school districts and thus from the state is hard to figure.

Later, Mr. Rupe reportedly offered to disclose much of the financial information if the *Topeka Capital-Journal* would just drop its lawsuit. The paper declined to do that, saying the issue is whether the group is subject to the Open Records law.

The principle here should be clear. Tax money should be accounted for to the taxpayers. Just because this money has been washed through a private corporation doesn't change that; the corporation's sole function is to do the bidding of public school districts.

Mr. Rupe apparently claims that some information is protected by what he calls the "attorney-client" privilege. (Apparently they don't teach spelling or punctuation in law school.)

It's hard to see how that applies, though. If he were working for a single school district, there's no question that his bills would be subject to public review.

Matters of legal advice and strategy might not be public, but the bills are and should be.

Mr. Rupe, in a letter to the editor, charged that the paper has a broader agenda, and in that, he's on the mark.

Other supposedly private, not-for-profit groups are organized to spend taxpayers' money to lobby positions that taxpayers may or may not agree with. These include the League of Kansas Municipalities, the county commissioners' association, the Kansas Association of School Boards, and dozens of other groups formed by public officials to push their interests in Topeka.

None of them publishes a report on spending, though all of their money comes from tax funds contributed by member governments.

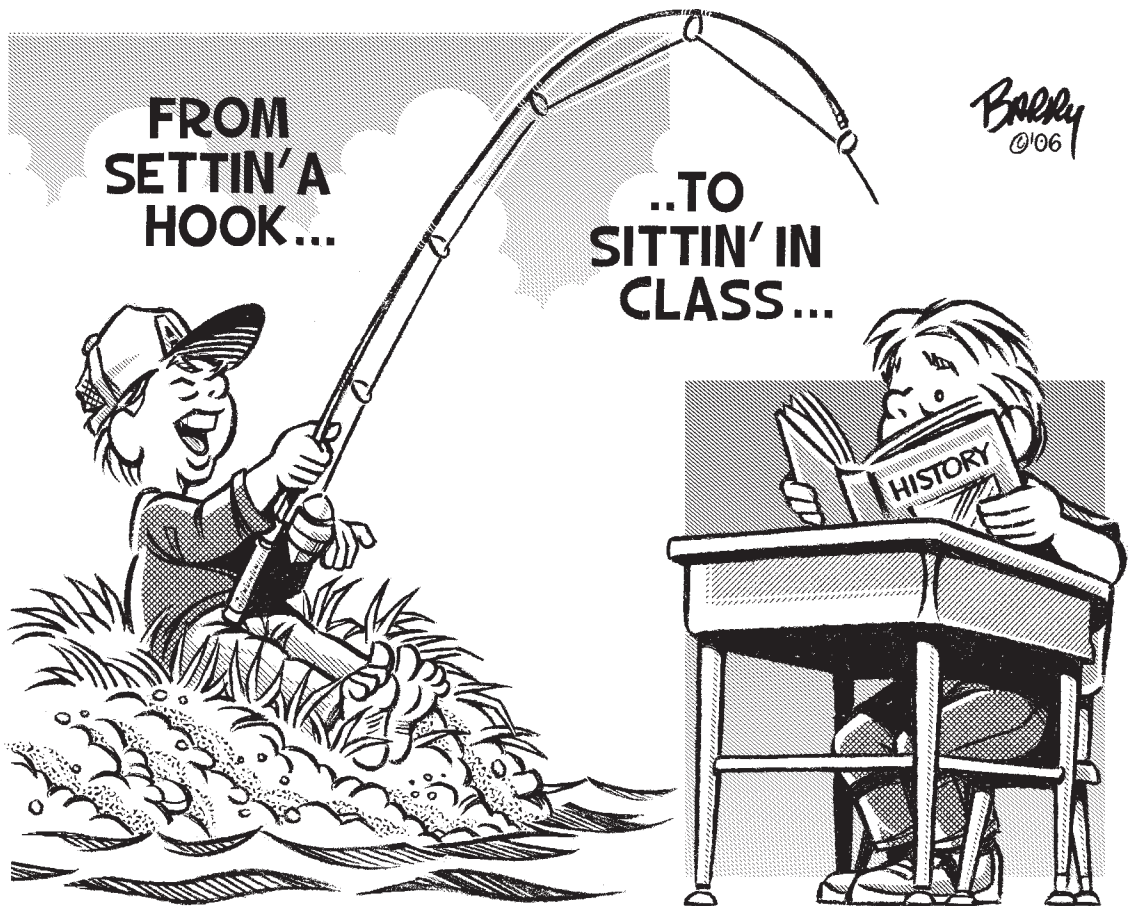
Many legislators doubt the fairness of allowing public agencies to spend money lobbying for more state money, let alone suing the state itself for more as the school group has done.

Back to the first principle again: If it's public money, taken from the taxpayers, then the public gets to know how it's spent.

In that case, a speedy resolution of this suit should benefit taxpayers. Either their right to know will be vindicated by the courts, as it should be, or the Legislature can fix the situation by changing the law.

Taxpayers tired of being sued with their own hard-earned dollars should like that outcome.

So bring it on. — *Steve Haynes*



..ANOTHER SUMMER IS OVER—ALAS!!!

News From the Past

50 years ago - 1956

Cheyenne County 4-H Club members chosen to attend the 4-H Club Roundup in Manhattan include Barbara Everhart, Merry Makers; Ilene Eggers, Jayhawkers; and Leon Kaufman, Cheyenne Sunflowers.

Keith Kehmeier, vice president of the Citizens State Bank, is the new Chamber of Commerce president.

A joint meeting of the City Council and the American Legion Post cleared the way for the definite and immediate action on the proposed swimming pool for St. Francis. Bonds in the amount of \$55,000 for the purpose of providing a swimming pool were approved at a special election earlier this summer. By popular opinion of the residents the pool will be located where the old pool was. The American

Legion owned the land where the old pool was located and at the meeting the Legion formally presented the city with the deed.

There are five new instructors on the grade school faculty this year. They are Miss Mabel Merklin, Mrs. Monta Neville, Miss Arlene Carpenter, Miss Garrah Winslow and Miss Alice Upton. Paul McGuire is the grade school principal.

Stock is arriving for the new store in St. Francis. The store, to be known as Howard's Town and Country, will be formally opened in mid-September but will probably open for business sometime near the end of August. The store is located in the building formerly occupied by Safeway. Among the items which arrived this week were 1500 pairs of shoes.

45 years ago - 1961

A total of \$16,082 was received for 4-H livestock sold at the annual sale of champions. Nine sheep, 15

hogs and 55 calves were sold.

The water situation is in the best situation it has ever been since the new wells have been installed this summer. The two new wells have pumped 27 million gallons of water into the mains since they have been connected.

High school enrollment figures climbed to near the 200 figures mark this year. New faculty members in the high school include Calvin Canniff as instrumental music instructor and Ron Hofman teaching social studies.

10 years ago - 1996

Dr. Abdullah began practicing in the county the last part of July. St. Francis Board of Education voted to offer Spanish classes in the new school year.

Myra Williams Miller was named the 1996 Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show Queen.

Hangin' With Marge

Painting

By Margaret Bucholtz



I don't know about the rest of you but I am going to be glad to see the snow fly!

For some reason I got the brain storm to paint the outside of the house. It was a wonderful idea until Kurt stepped in. He believes in doing things right, which always means more work.

Instead of painting the house he said I needed to prime it first, but not with normal primer, it had to be oil base.

I am the only person I know that wears more paint on myself than I get onto the wood. I got out some latex gloves and started in. When Kurt came home he said, "Honey those gloves are really a good idea, but you should have brought some that went to your shoulder." Sure enough I had paint all over my arms, and we won't even talk about what

was on my face, legs and in my hair.

That night it was wash down with the paint thinner then take a shower. The next day was better as I got to the latex paint and I knew it would wash off.

I finally got one side done, of course it wasn't one of the high sides and I told Kurt those were his as I really don't like heights. He was kind enough to get started, but by the next day he was busy and I was in such a hurry I decided to climb the ladder and try it.

It is really hard to paint when you have one hand hanging onto the roof, and wanting to hang onto the ladder with the other one, but painting with my mouth was out of the question.

I was really proud of myself as I got the first few inches painted and started to dip the brush in the can for

more paint and I felt something tugging at my shirt. I managed to kind of look down to see what was happening and there my shirt was hanging in the paint can. I got it pulled out and found the real meaning for those things called drop cloths. My shirt dripped for quite a while before all the paint fell off.

With Kurt's help, the first coat is on and Kurt asked me if I was always going to keep it that color. Thinking that was a strange question I asked him why. He said "well as long as we keep it this color we will never have to prime it again." I just looked at him and said, "Probably not, change is the reason you would paint the house in the first place!"

Reader commends St. Francis man

Editor's note: The following letter to Dave Roberson was written in response to the city council's "Spot Lighting the Positive," which appeared in the Aug. 17 issue of The Saint Francis Herald.

Letter to Dave:
In the Aug. 17 issue of The Herald, there was a suggestion made that the city council name someone as an individual or organization that improves the quality of life in St. Francis. You are an invaluable asset to the

Village as we all know, but your unceasing concern for others is equally outstanding — playing cards with shut-ins, running errands, driving to appointments, repairing and fixing things in homes and yards and "just visiting."

I'm sure the council would give

you a unanimous vote and recognize your as the person that improves the quality of life in St. Francis.

Thank you Dave,

Sincerely,
Rachel Huffman
St. Francis

Letter to the Editor

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Matt Keller, Baldwin City; John Keller, St. Francis; Dorothy Lueschan, Norton; Willow Rose Cook, St. Francis; Kenneth Wilkening, St. Francis; Albert Keller, St. Francis; Marvin Kamla, Haigler, Neb.; Helen Sykes, Morrison, Colo.; Gail Biggerstaff, Gainesville, Fla.

GOD SAYS
Love is patient, love is kind... Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails....
1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



I love to talk about exciting things to do in and around our wonderful corner of Kansas. I have another one to add to your "must do" list. The Kit Carson County Carousel in Burlington is definitely a national treasure.

Our sister papers to the south, *The Goodland Star News* and *Colby Free Press*, are putting together a special travel section which highlights the first 70 things to do along the first 70 miles of I-70. But coming from the west, travelers on the interstate pass through Burlington: The gateway to Kansas.

Last Friday my son and I took a trip to Burlington. Dad was selling

ads but it gave us a day to hang out before he started school again. I also drug him along to use as a model for the carousel ad, it's cheaper that way.

The carousel was built by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company in 1905. Despite being moved from the old Elitch Gardens in Denver to Burlington and some years of neglect it has survived. At one point the round building that houses the ride was used for grain storage, with the carousel inside!

But the magnificent carousel has undergone a lengthy restoration. The 46 hand-carved animals, complete with over 90 percent of their original paint, take riders on a trip

to the past. As the magical beasts circle around vintage art works, the Wurlitzer Monster Military Band Organ plays. During Joey and my adventure we heard the theme song to the movie *Bridge on the River Kwai* as well as Custer's 7th Cavalry's Garyowen.

The carousel opens at 1 p.m. daily and runs from Memorial Day to the Labor Day weekend. And the best part, it only costs a quarter to ride.

If you're interested in the I-70 special section, stop by the Herald office after Aug. 30 for a free copy.

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

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.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
No Sunday School
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

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.

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.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

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

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.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship following
Pastor Ken Hart

Clough Valley Church of Hope
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF
Pastor Jason Howard
332-3152
Saturdays 8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT

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