



People can't 'raise taxes' to generate more income

We understand the pressure on public officials to spend more, especially on programs that federal and state governments push on them, including homeland security initiatives, emergency preparedness and the like.

But we're not sure taxpayers want, need or can afford everything local government wants or is told to do.

It may seem a small thing to increase taxes "just a little," but board members need to consider that many, maybe most, of those they serve cannot do the same.

People can't "raise taxes" to generate more income. In this economy, the boss would just laugh at them. For many, including teachers and most health workers, and many at small businesses, there have been no regular increases in the past few years.

Many businesses are still hurting from the recession. Unemployment remains high and this area's population continues to plummet.

A business can raise prices, of course, but that does not mean customers will pay. Many can and will go elsewhere.

Time was when our public officials were very conservative when it came to spending and tax increases. That's been less so in recent years. Often, when a city or county has had a wind-fall from increased assessments, it has kept tax rates high and spent much of the money. When assessments have gone the other way,

board members feel they need to raise taxes to maintain spending.

Particularly in a bind are businesses and homeowners. The share of county government they pay for has increased in recent years as the state's complicated system for assessing farmland lags years behind reality. Farm-land values are through the roof even while taxes on ag land fall behind, leaving the county with less valuation.

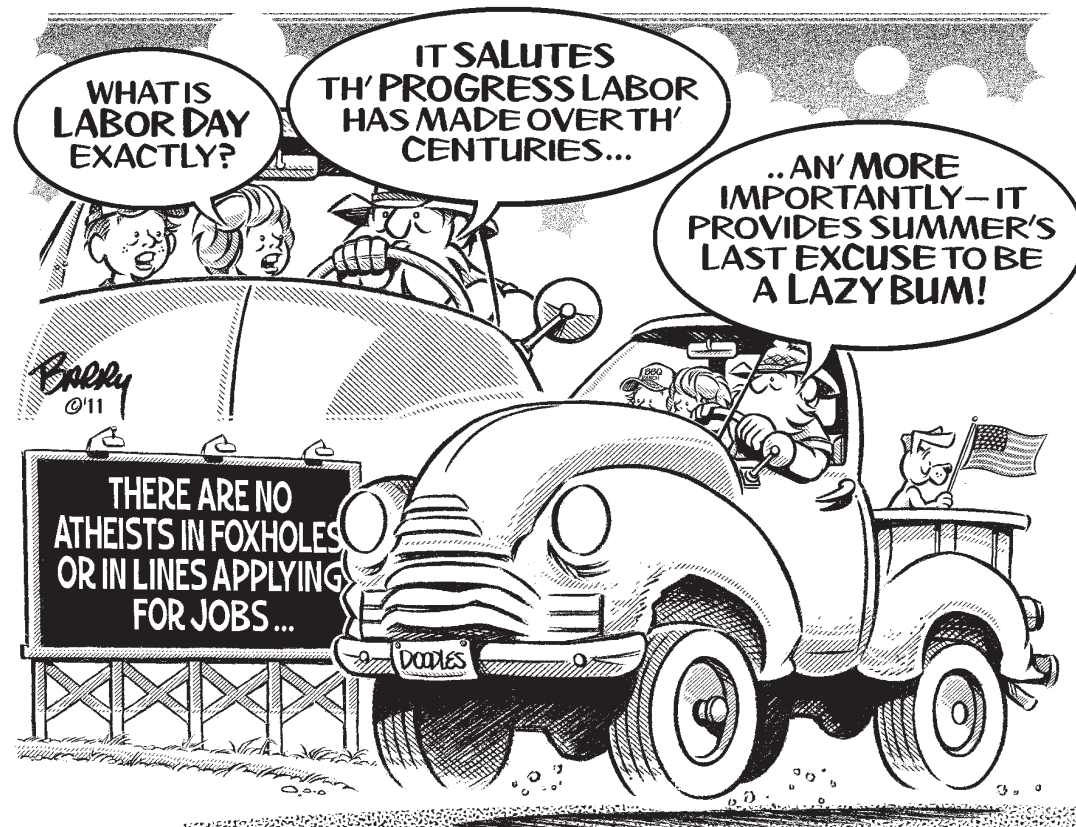
The decision board members make goes beyond whether people can afford a "small" increase in taxes. The question is whether the cost of government - city, county, school, state, federal - should continue to increase, year after year, while the pool of taxpayers continues to shrink.

The level of local government we can afford may not match the level we are used to; we understand that.

It's not a matter of whether government employees need or deserve a raise. We know they deserve one, the same as many others do. It's not whether the county or city needs new computers or new equipment.

The question is whether taxpayers have received any kind of increase where they can afford to pay more.

What we know is that many taxpayers have no way to match any kind of tax increase in these times. And if people are not tired of higher taxes, they ought to be. - Steve Haynes



News From the Past

100 years ago - 1911 Kemp and Lockard have added the finest express wagon ever seen at St. Francis to their dry line equipment. The board of county commissioners ordered the county health officer to fumigate all school houses in the county that had school during the past year. The post office department ordered the establishment of rural route No. 3 out of St. Francis on June 1. The total length of this route is about 34 miles and it ought to serve and accommodate a large number of families. Jacob Uplinger, this week, sold his fine section of land, 4 miles down the river, to Dr. Robert Damerell of Red Cloud, Neb., for \$24,000 or \$37.50 per acre. 90 years ago - 1921 The County Commissioners passed a resolution providing for a meeting once a month. The county's business has grown to such proportions that it needs attention more often than once every three months. Dr. B.F. Jeffers has sold his practice and office equipment to Dr. J.H.A. Peck of Kansas City. Dr. Peck is here and has assumed the practice. He has a wife and child and will occupy the F.L. Schields home.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick mcccormickcasey@rocketmail.com When did they get to be so grown up? Of course, looking in the mirror, I wonder when it was that my father decided to start showing up in our home. So while I'm trying to figure this out, I'll also be busy enjoying the last times we see our kids do the many things that make up their high school lives.

Foundation recognizes supporters

Letter to the Editor: The board of the St. Francis Community Foundation recognizes everyone for their generous support of the "Giving for Living" campaign. To this point, approximately \$57,000 has been raised to assist county-elected officials in researching and finding the best solutions in addressing the continued operations of a nursing home facility providing services for the elderly and individuals with special needs in Cheyenne County. The presence of the red hearts throughout our community was tangible evidence once again of our ability to come together for good. We also recognize the voters who have agreed to an additional tax burden to give our commissioners the authority to support the operations of the Village. We are all being bombarded to reach deeper to give to area activities and charities, but we have a unique opportunity to "double our money." An anonymous donor has pledged to match up to an additional \$50,000 in contributions to the foundation's "Senior Living Fund for Cheyenne County" through the end of 2011. To date, almost \$8,000 has been received toward the estab-

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lished matching funds pledge. We hope an additional \$42,000 will be donated before year's end to take advantage of this generous offer to raise \$100,000 from this matching fund pledge. Please help make this fund drive a success. As folks get into year-end tax planning, we would ask that you keep in mind that donations to the fund qualify as deductible charitable contributions. You can follow the progress of donations by going to the foundation's website: www.sfcommunityfoundation.org. The foundation board thanks you for your support and encourages

Playground is enjoyed

Letter to the Editor: It is such a pleasure to look at the grade school playground now! There are no more holes, bumps, sticks or dirt. It is absolutely beautiful to see when driving down Main Street. Our kids deserve this. The project shows that people still care about the children here in St. Francis. Thank you to all that are responsible for taking on this task. From a former child and current "senior" citizens. Anita Miller Former grade school secretary St. Francis Letter

Lines from the Library

The Road Home: by Vanessa Del Fabbro; See You At The Top, by Zig Ziglar; No Greater Love by Kathi Mills-Macias; The Ideal Man by Julie Garwood; Happy Birthday by Danielle Steel; Quinn by Iris Johansen; Split Second by Catherine Coulter; Betrayal Of Trust by J. A. Jance; Merciless by Diana Palmer; Justice by Karen Robards; A Real Live Cowboy by Judy Duarte; Outback Bridal Rescue by Emma Darcy; In The Spaniard's Bed by Helen Bianchin; and Taken By The Maverick Millionaire by Anna Cleary. The library has the following new books in the children's department: A Winter's Nap by Marcy Goldberg Sacks; Thumper Finds A Friend by Laura Driscoll; Front Page News by Jodie Shepherd; Pool Party by Karen Barss; Martha Says It With Flowers Susan Meddaugh; The Boo Crew Kara McMahon The following DVDs are available to check out: Second Chances Tom Amandes; Buzby, The Misbehaving Bee Troy Schmidt; Hermie and Wormie's Nutty Adventure Tim Conway; Hermie and Friends: Hermie and The Seas Tim Conway; Stanley The Stinkbug Goes To Camp Tim Conway; Hermie: A Common Caterpillar Max Lucado; Where The Red Fern Grows James Whitmore; Hermie and Friends: Webster, The Scaredy Spider Max Lucado.

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GOD SAYS Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27

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