



## Big spenders want more of your money for state

The forces of public spending are gathering whatever strength they have left, hoping to get a grip once again on the state budget – and just maybe grab Gov. Sam Brownback by the throat while they're at it.

The people who like to spend other people's money – your money, in other words – are pretty sure Kansas is not spending enough, especially on their pay. A broad coalition is emerging dedicated to battling the conservative governor and returning the state budget to the days of constant growth.

One group, calling itself the "Big Tent Coalition," joined with a group called Kansans for Quality Communities in staging a "statewide" tour to promote public spending. Statewide, to this group, means Salina, Lawrence, Pittsburg and Wichita, by the way, a pretty comprehensive effort for the eastern third of the state.

"Big Tent" appears mostly to represent advocates for families of the disabled, home care and community mental health centers, groups which always want and need more state money.

The "Quality Communities" group, which has been around for a couple of years, lobbying for more state spending, represents both major teachers' unions, the state Association of School Boards, state employee groups and others who depend on state taxes for their paychecks. Members include the state-financed Area Agencies on Aging and also Kansas Citizens for the Arts, which has fought the governor over his veto of money for the state Arts Commission.

In short, these groups represent a huge chunk of those who depend on the state budget for their livelihood. There is no reason why they

can't or shouldn't work together or that they shouldn't want to lobby the state to give them more money. It's their right. Both groups maintain websites that explain who's behind them, so there are no secrets.

Nor is there anything wrong with the state's labor unions, as reported by the Associated Press, "trying to unite" against the governor and for more state spending. They have a right to their position, too.

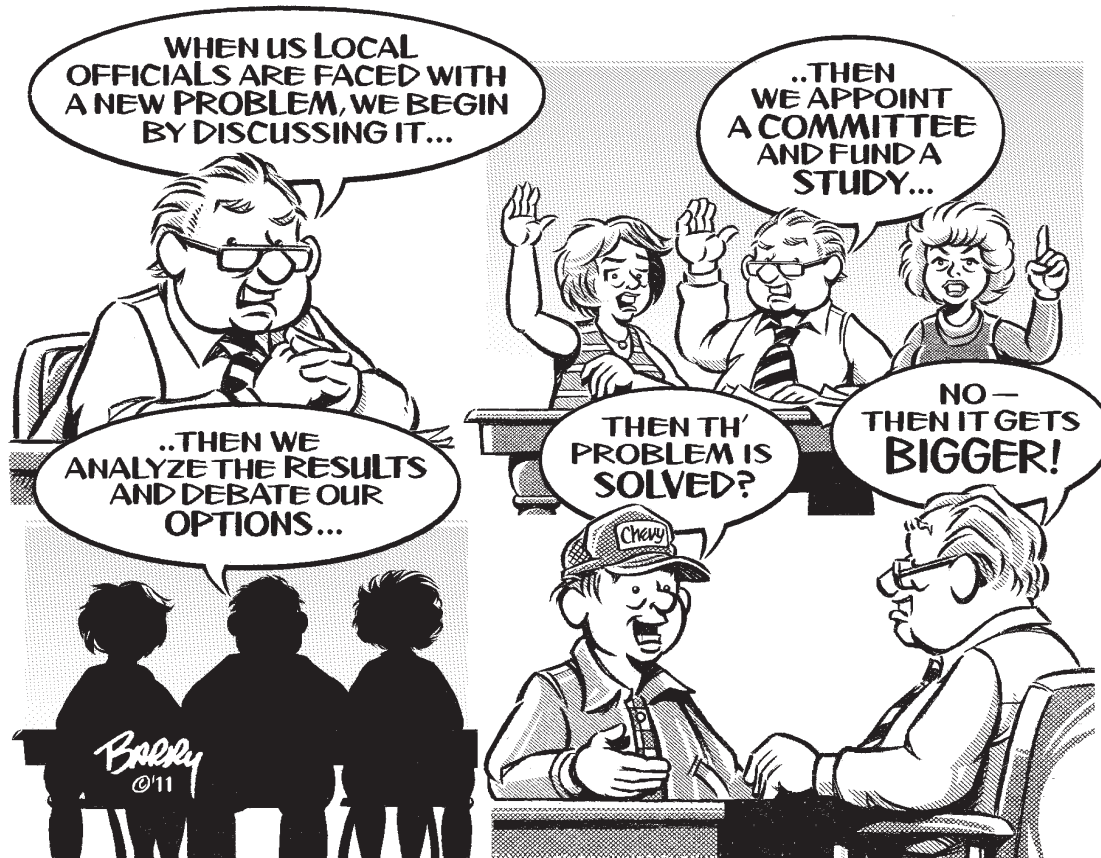
The thing is, even with a small surplus of around \$200 million this year, after all the cuts made by the last two governors during the recession, Kansas still doesn't have much money to throw around. The state is more or less broke.

Nor do we expect them to do much damage to Sam Brownback, who remains a popular and well-liked governor. Remember, he won a landslide victory last year after scaring off nearly every candidate the Democrats could come up with. People seemed to like his message of fiscal responsibility; it fits with the times.

After two terms in the U.S. Senate, he's no political novice, either. The spenders do not like him, to be sure, but he's sitting in the governor's office and they aren't. Their efforts to boost spending and undermine the governor are not much of a threat.

But it would be interesting to know just how much tax money, yours and mine, has been committed to this effort by school boards and public employees. School districts and Area Agencies on Aging, for instance, seldom spend their own money.

Other than that, though, it's open season on loose money in Topeka. — Steve Haynes



## News From the Past

**Years ago - 2006**  
In the Oct. 19 issue of *The Herald*, Bill Lee, Wheeler, was appointed as the Kansas Department of Transportation highway maintenance supervisor of Cheyenne County. He replaced Kenny Richers.

St. Francis Super's grocery store gave two \$1,000 checks to the St. Francis Senior Center and Peace Lutheran Women's group. Each organization had collected \$150,000 in receipts. Manager, Bob Weatherly, also gave \$250 to the St. Francis high school drama department. The money was raised from the sale of a ribeye steak sandwich lunch.

The St. Francis Board of Education approved a 3-percent salary increase for teachers. Ramblers Club met at the home of Elaine Kehlbeck.

Ranch Foods Direct was having a truckload meat sale in the Hilltop General Store parking lot.

Tangles Hair Salon, owner and operator, Kody Lauer, was offering Halloween Specials on haircuts and supplies. Ann Fromholtz took over Kut N Kurl Salon.

A Gelbvieh bull belonging to Cody and Matt Raile took reserve grand champion at the Kansas State Fair.

Florence Peacock was honored as the Good Samaritan Village Resident of the month.

St. Francis volleyball ladies lost to Colby, Oakley and Goodland in Northwest Kansas League action. Winning league was Decatur Community-Oberlin.

The United Methodist Thrift Store held a first anniversary celebration. A bike was given away.

The St. Francis Indian football team defeated Syracuse 62-19. Scoring were Joel McAtee, Jordan Gienger, AJ McAtee, Russell Rogers, Trent Raile, Adam Peter and Levi Weeden.

Work began on the new St. Francis Emergency Building on U.S. 36.

Cara Hunt, a sophomore, was the October Student of the Month.

The Lady Indian volleyball team ended their 2006 season, losing to Ellis. Oakley was the final winner of the Oakley Sub-state Volleyball Tournament.

John Kite, Kite and Day law office, was admitted to the Supreme Court. Following the ceremony, Mr. Kite and others admitted were honored at a reception hosted by the Kansas Bar Association.

## Law enforcement out of control

Letter to the Editor:

While probably 99 percent of the taxpayers agree that law enforcement is way out of control in this county—too many vehicles and officers. A single force is enough, but for our city and county elected officials to even suggest a different avenue to select the top lawmen in our county is absolutely LUDECREST. The sheriff should be elected "by the people for the people" and not have to serve at the WHIM of our city council, commissioners, or some 2-year board (as someone "said" they have seen)! The commissioners limited control is only that the sheriff's budget is not overspent. When voters don't care for some elected official, next election they can vote them out. That is the voters in control and not a group deciding what is best for those poor dummies out there that voted us in. We really know what is best for THEM!

Come on VOTERS wake up, they can cut expenses without total control over our sheriff. We have seen in the city how our chief's have come and gone because of being crossways with the council or someone on the council. With that control, things can be swept under the RUG and have been!

When the sheriff's office is in charge, all charges against a person will be seen by the county attorney and proper charges can be brought, if it is a felony it will not be charged as a misdemeanor which seems to be the limit the city attorney can charge someone with!

Come on VOTERS don't let the duty of selecting our top law officer be taken over by the ideas of some of our elected people. Let

## Letters to the Editor

them know some of them can be replaced in the next election.

You can see from the last special election that the "yes" vote on subsidizing Good Sam was SPUN into voting YES to allow the Three People Body of commissions to negotiate the purchase of the Facility. Maybe this and taking away our RIGHT to elect our Sheriff should be decided in a court of law!

## Reader describes tax increase in one word

Letter to the Editor:

It takes only one word to describe our tax increase: WOW!

It is nice to know however, that while the rest of the country suffers from a down housing market, the value of my property in St. Francis has increased.

Oh, and by the way, we still have dogs roaming the streets and barking all night! Should we maybe try to control them and leave the sheriff position alone!

Remain SILENT and there are those who will take away your Constitutional rights and FREEDOMS!

Larry B Wilson  
St. Francis

## Farmers asked to take caution when spraying

Letter to the Editor:

I wanted to take a brief moment to address what I see as an ongoing issue for myself and my Kansas Department of Transportation crew here in St. Francis. I realize that spraying operations are part of today's farming practices. I would just ask that farmers with ground adjacent to state's right-of-way take caution while performing their spraying operations, and to refrain from farming state right-of-ways.

Spillover spraying kills the established grass, which then leads

to weed growth. This weed growth must then be maintained by the Kansas Department of Transportation forces. While this cannot be avoided in every instance and scenario, especially with windy weather conditions, I just wanted to bring it to the community's attention.

I believe it will save us all money, as taxpayers, in the long run.

Bill Lee  
Kansas Department of Transportation Supervisor,  
St. Francis sub-area shop

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmccormick@nwkansas.com

Christmas seems to be more and more about spending money.

Even with a down economy across the lands of America, this year saw record sales on Black Friday. The National Retail Federation estimated that the average shopper spent \$398.62 last Friday. Sales were up 7 percent from 2010 as 226 million people either went to stores or bought online.

Each year PNC Wealth Management has a little fun with the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Using their Christmas Price Index a cost is established as to how much it would cost to purchase the 364 items needed in the tune.

According to their numbers, the interested consumer can expect to pay \$6,300 for Seven Swans-a-Swimming. Your holiday 11

Pipers Piping will be \$2,427.60. Also, plan to dole out \$2,629.90 for 12 Drummers Drumming this season.

In all the cost passed the \$100 K mark this year with an estimate of \$101,119 for the works. I wonder if Neiman Marcus has it in their catalog?

Coming back to reality... isn't

it reassuring to know that the most important Christmas gift never came with a price tag? May you and yours know the blessing of the newborn babe found in a manger in Bethlehem.

**GOD SAYS**  
And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. **Luke 2:4-5**

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**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 Warren Cico  
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Seventh-Day**  
Adventist Church  
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor Jerry Nowack  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

**St. Francis of Assisi**  
**Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11 a.m.  
Communion 3rd Sunday

**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.

**First Christian Church**  
Pastor Jeff Landers  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.  
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

**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.

**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.

**Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC**  
202 N. College  
Pastor Randy Nelson  
Church 332-2928  
Parsonage 332-2312  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Communion 1st Sunday

**St. Francis**  
**Equity**

**St. Francis**  
**Herald**

**Praise the Lord**