

Schools need to work with state on budgets

The 2012 legislative season is fast upon us. School budgets will be one of the big issues, what with the state's finances perennially tight and the Legislature having messed up the income tax system something fierce last year.

But before joining the fight, we'd urge the state's teachers, educators and school boards to take a deep breath and offer to work with the governor and Legislature to make some sense out of the tax situation.

Unless their purpose is simply politics - to make the governor and his Republican allies look bad - they have nothing to gain from picking a fight.

The governor has already said he wants the tax situation fixed. He's promised not to cut schools. As long as the Legislature will do something about the income tax, there's no reason to believe he isn't telling the truth.

In effect, he's offered an olive branch to the school interests, which consume about half the state's budget.

The tax situation became a mess near the end of last year's session when the Senate, under pressure to get something done on the income tax, a key plank in the governor's platform, passed a bill that included nearly all his proposed cuts but none of the "flattening" changes he'd proposed to eliminate "loop-holes" such as the deductions for home mortgage interest and other popular tax breaks.

Everyone, especially the Senate, just assumed the two houses would negotiate differences on the tax bill and come up with something they could live with. That didn't happen, however. The House just slam-dunked the Senate bill and sent it on to the governor, who signed it.

That left the state with a projected shortfall in coming years, as much as \$700 million a year, assuming there is no fix for the income tax, although that figure keeps dropping as the economy improves.

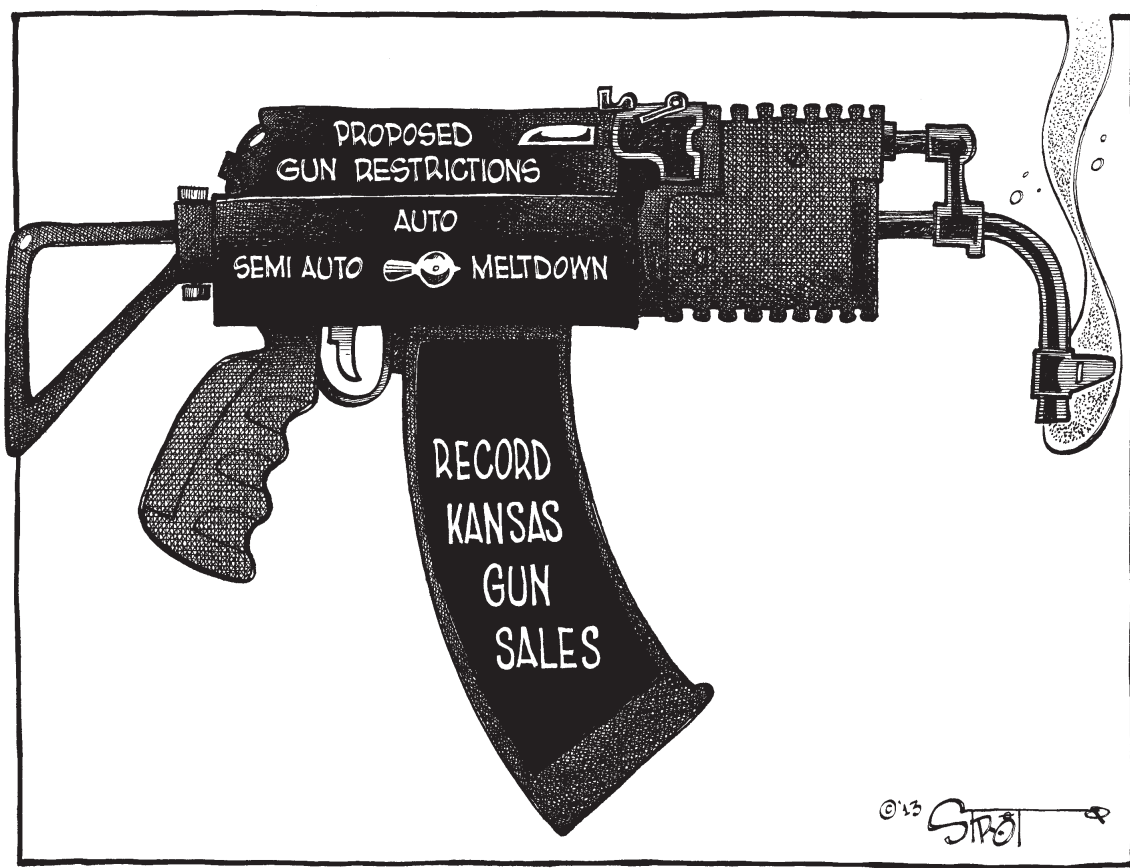
This clearly was not what the governor wanted, but as one veteran statehouse reporter likes to say, "He signed it, so he's got to share the blame."

So true. And the governor has said the revenue system needs to be fixed. It'll be the big issue this year.

How well it's fixed and how education fares may depend on how well everyone who sees the need can work together. The governor has signaled his intent. The state's school boards appear to be ready to work with him. The teachers? So far, they've not come around, but they should.

This administration says it's a friends of education, and they might just get farther by joining in than by howling.

- Steve Haynes



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
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We hear so much about what is wrong with our younger generations. You know, the ones that will be running the show and taking care of us down the road.

I have good news. There are some pretty special individuals in that group.

Sunday we had the pleasure of listening to David Guthmiller talk about his experiences doing mission work outside the United States. When I say outside, I mean outside. David has made two trips to Guatemala to help needy fami-

lies who scrape out a living working the coffee fields, so we can enjoy a hot cup each morning.

Another summer he led a team of four young ladies as they ventured into the steel and concrete jungle of modern Thailand. Their purpose was to lead women away from a life of prostitution in the raucous nightclubs of the city.

From there David joined a group, which included his younger brother Adam, that traveled into the third world reality of Tanzania.

Listening to this soft spoken, college football player turned missionary, made me wonder if I could do what he has. His faith and trust in God was very inspiring.

Also, I was left with the comforting thought that there are people around like David who will have a great impact on many lives.

Open Season

Food Disasters

By Cynthia Haynes



Christmas is over without a trip to the emergency room.

This is always a good thing.

Now you would think that when the kids left home, we would be able to stop worrying about those trips to the ER. (Somehow, Steve always seemed to get the shift that ended up taking one or the other of the munchkins to see the doctor, and usually for stitches.)

This year, however, it was our granddaughter who probably saved both of us from getting some really nasty burns.

It all started out with our regular Christmas dinner. Even though there were just the two of us this year, we had steak, twice baked potatoes and green beans, our traditional dinner.

Steve suggested that I put the potatoes on early so that they could be well baked and ready to be removed from their skins, mashed and returned to the

shells in time to put them under the steak, which would be under the broiler. Normally, we like to cook steak outside on the grill. This year, however, the weather was not cooperating with our little charcoal grill, so it was inside for the steak and potatoes.

I picked a dozen nice Colorado bakers, pricked them all over with a knife and put them in the oven at 350 degrees. In an hour to an hour and a half, I figured, I could pull them out and get them and finish preparing them for twice baking. I always fix 10 to 12 potatoes when I do twice bakes because: 1. They freeze well. 2. It's just as easy to bake 10 as two, and most importantly 3. They're a pain in the tush to make but we love them, so making a dozen means I get to enjoy them six times and only have to make them once.

After about an hour, I checked the potatoes and one had ex-

ploded. Not just a little like they sometimes do. No, this potato exploded all over the back of the oven. It looked like someone had thrown a pot of rice in there. I was horrified, and called Steve to inspect the mess. There wasn't much we could do, so we checked a couple of the close ones. They needed another half hour.

So, we got on the computer and called our granddaughter in Augusta, Ga., to see how her Christmas was going. She's almost 3 and she was on a present-and-sugar high, running around in circles. She only stopped long enough to say "Hi," and she was off again.

Her other grandparents were there. We were so jealous. But we enjoyed watching the chaos for that half of an hour, then went in to check the potatoes.

A second one had exploded! And this was one that we had just checked. We would have both been in a world of hurt if it had decided to go off in our faces.

Luckily, we had plenty of potatoes left for dinner and the freezer, and the oven needed cleaning anyway.

Boy, did it need cleaning.

January is National Blood Donor month

Since 1970, National Blood Donor Month has been celebrated to educate Americans about the importance of regular blood donation. Every day, about 44,000 pints of blood are needed in the U.S. to help treat trauma victims, surgery patients, organ transplant recipients, premature babies and cancer patients.

Join the nearly 4 million dedicated Red Cross blood donors

across the country and make an appointment to give by visiting redcrossblood.org.

GOD SAYS

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.

Isaiah 65:25

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Book Review

That Woman

By Anne Sebba

One of Britain's most distinguished biographers turns her focus on one of the most vilified women of the last century, Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor.

"That woman," as she was referred to by the Queen Mother, became a hate figure for ensnaring a British king and destabilizing the monarchy. Born in 1896 in Baltimore, Bessie Wallis Warfield endured an impoverished and comparatively obscure childhood that inflamed a burning desire to rise above her circumstances.

Neither beautiful nor brilliant, she nevertheless became one of the most talked-about women of her generation, and inspired such deep love and adoration in Edward VIII that he gave up a throne and an empire for her. Wallis lived by her wit and her wits, while both her apparent and alleged moral transgressions added to her aura and dazzle.

Accused of Fascist sympathies, having Nazi lovers, and learning bizarre sexual techniques in China, she was the subject of widespread gossip and fascination. In death,

the Duchess became a style icon and a symbol of empowerment, a woman whose unequivocal aim was to win in the game of life.

The book is based on new ar-

chives and material discovered by the author, and provides new insight on the character and motivations of this powerful, charismatic and complex woman.

Photo Policy

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times want to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or new happening that we should attend, please call 332-3162.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event. Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

Laser prints of photos which have run in The Herald or Times are available, first come, first served. Special-order laser prints of photos will be available at \$3 each.

<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>United Methodist Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, 512 S. Scott Pastor Warren Cico Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</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>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>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday</p> <p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams Pastor James McCurdy Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p> <p>First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Church Service 10 a.m.</p>	<p>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.</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>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</p>
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