

## Legislature needs to fix tax mess it left for itself

As the Kansas Legislature opens this week, with the first day of the session Monday and the governor's State of the State speech on Tuesday, we hope the members get down to the business at hand and write a budget that makes some sense of the tax mess left from last year.

As it stands, the Legislature faces a revenue gap in the fiscal year beginning July 1 now estimated at \$267 million. Somehow, it has to fill the gap or whittle down state spending. One idea is to keep the current sales tax rate, which is set to go down in July. That alone wouldn't fill the gap, but it'd take care of most of it.

The Legislature also could end some of the state's tax breaks, allowing more revenue at the lower income tax rates passed last year. We were talking about canceling the deduction on home-mortgage interest, among others, however, that's no sure thing.

We're all in favor of shrinking the size of government, but there is a lot of pressure on the budget. The Legislature already is borrowing from the highway fund, even though good roads are vital to the state.

And last week, a three-judge panel in the Shawnee County District Court ordered the state to come up with \$440 million more for schools to at least partly replace cuts made during the recession. Judges were critical of the Legislature's tax-cutting ways.

And while the conservative Republican leadership vowed to fight to keep control of spending and tax rates, it's far from certain how this battle will come out. One tactic will be to attempt a constitutional amendment giving the Legislature some say in appointment of judges.

In short, the Legislature, turned upside down by reapportionment and a battle which saw more-liberal Republican leaders ousted from the Senate, will have its hands full. We're willing to bet the "solid" majority many expect will soon show signs of stress.

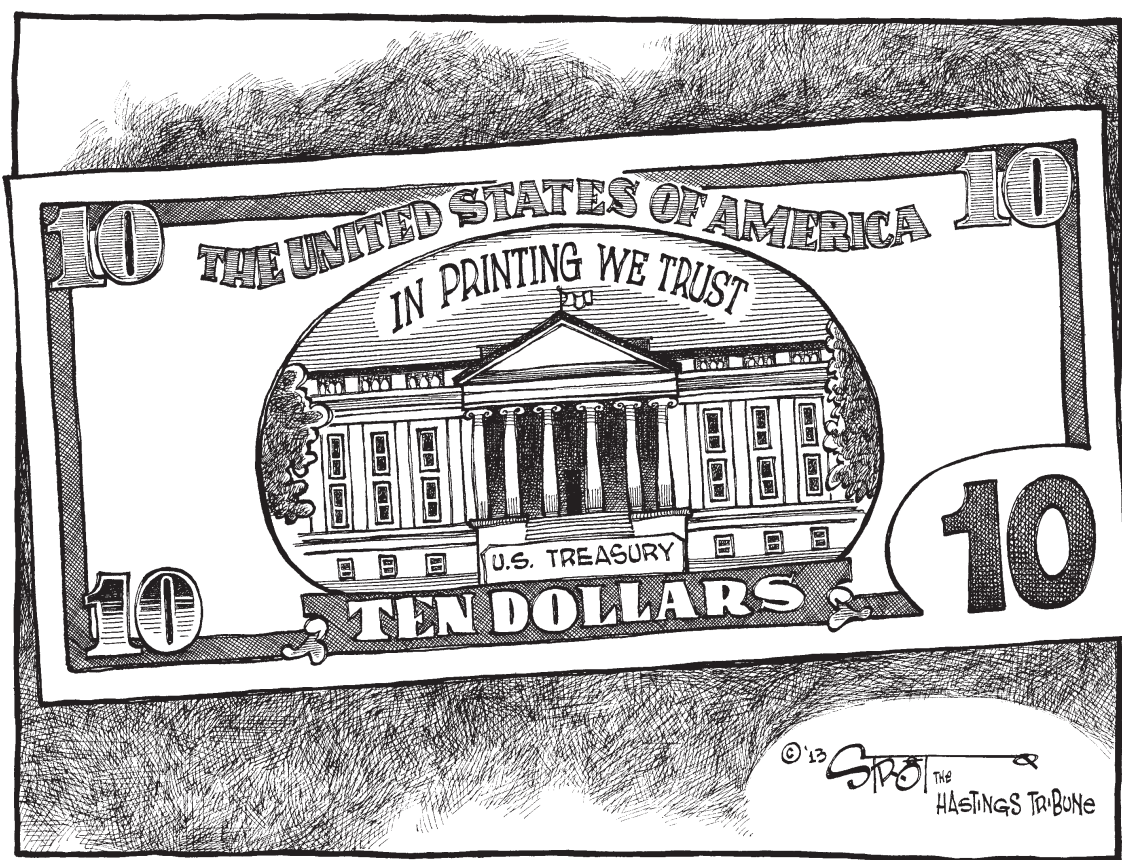
But if the members apply themselves to the task and try to define what the state's most important duties are, they should have little trouble adopting a budget, fixing the income-tax package and providing enough money for the state to make it through the year.

And we hope, as some leaders are predicting, they'll get all that done in well under the 90-day "limit" on Kansas sessions. (Last year's Legislature extended itself to 99 days, however.)

One member predicted a 70-day session. We'll believe that when we see it. However, 80 to 90 days does not seem out of line if you're an optimist.

As long as the new bunch doesn't leave another mess like last year, most people will be pretty happy.

- Steve Haynes



## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

Drat those Denver Donkeys! It's sad to see the Broncos season end, but being a sports fan means taking the good with the bad and looking forward to next year. Also, in every situation in life there are positives to see.

What took much of the sting away was observing how Payton Manning handled the loss.

In the "me" world we live in most explain failures with what

those around them did wrong. It could be anything from blaming the coaches play calling, to a team-mate's mistake to the bad weather. So how did the leader of the squad react in the post game press interview?

I don't even know if he said much at all because after getting cleaned up and changing into a suit, Mr. Manning took his family to the Baltimore Raven's locker

room to congratulate Ray Lewis on the win and an impressive football career.

Now that's what I call class. And as for next year, I'm sure glad Payton Manning will be leading the Broncos again.

## Behind The Scenes

By Janet Carman



needed and always welcome.

### Barn Quilt Squares

Join the Barn Quilt Trail of Cheyenne County. Quilt squares can be displayed on any farm building that is visible from the road. Buildings in town can also be included. Pick up a packet at the St. Francis Equity office for ordering information.

### "Friends of the Museum"

Since 1987 members of the Cheyenne County Historical Society have faithfully maintained the Museum of Cheyenne County. During planning stages in 1985 members agreed that no tax money would be used to build the museum. Instead individuals, dedicated to preserving the history of the county, made pledges to finance the endeavor.

Over the years additions and changes have taken place. Volunteers moved the South Fork Friends Church to a site adjacent to the museum. The Harvey addition extended museum exhibit space. Members created interesting display areas portraying pioneer life and arranged period costumes in a large glass case. A local artist painted the background scene and archaeology enthusiasts arranged artifacts for the prehistory exhibit.

The old church requires regular maintenance. It has recently been painted inside, and exterior siding and lexan window covering were installed.

Museum and church expenses

continue to increase, but income has actually decreased this year because two trusts expired. At present, income is based on a \$4,700 annual allotment from the county, as well as donations, book sales and church rental. Monthly utility expenses average \$350. Cleaning and office supplies amount to about \$200 annually. Insurance costs \$980 each year.

To lower expenses, the board decided to discontinue the part-time position of museum director and will rely on volunteers to operate the facility.

Volunteers have worked tirelessly since the museum was dedicated in June of 1987, always in the interest of preserving the history of Cheyenne County. Twenty-five years later, visitors consider it one of the best small museums in the state. It is an asset to this community.

Take part in preserving the history of Cheyenne County. Become a "Friend of the Museum". Donations of \$25 or more will be used to maintain and improve the museum and the old country church. All donations, memorials, and monetary gifts are vital for the prosperity of your museum and are tax deductible. "Friend of the Museum" gifts may be given in honor of another person. All museum "Friends" will be recognized.

### Historical Society annual meeting

The annual meeting of the Cheyenne County Historical Society will be held Monday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. The business meeting will be followed by a presentation by Dan Busse: "What and Who Were Here When the Pioneers Arrived." Dan welcomes people to bring items of interest, artifacts and questions.

Coffee, cookies and conversation will end the event.

### Nominees for society board positions

President: Lea Keller; vice president: Janet Carman; secretary: Sandy Smull; treasurer: Sally Wieck; trustees: Joy Fisher, Marcia Hickert and Helene Landenberger.

Volunteers fill these positions: Country Church liaison: Elton Keller; Accessions: Rachel Huffman.

There are other committee positions to be filled. Volunteers are

### Honor Roll

Those who have recently subscribed or renewed their *Saint Francis Herald* are:

David Butler, St. Francis; Ilene Raile, St. Francis; Dolores Kincheloe, St. Francis; Chad Kincheloe, Des Plains, Ill. Gene Kincheloe, Evans, Colo.; Marty LaRusso, Westminster, Colo.; Claude Gleason, Bird City; Gay Walz, St. Francis; Ross and Scharlett Weber, Topeka; Sam Goodale, St. Francis; Forrest Crum, St. Francis; Zina Nelson, Larned; Bud Moiser, McDonald; Toby Dirks, St. Francis; Robert Barrett, Warsaw, Mo.; Joyce Faulkender, St. Francis; Bartlett Grain, St. Francis; Pat and Vicki Cress, St. Francis; Tammy Pettijohn, Agra; George and Debra Harper; St. Francis; Katie Willers, Souix Falls, S.D.; Marie Walker, Plainview, Texas; and Gary Neilan, Las Cruces, N.M.

GOD SAYS  
But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.  
Proverbs 6:32

## The Saint Francis Herald

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## Across the County

### January is Kansas Radon Action Month

By Marty Fear



County Extension Agent

Radon is a naturally occurring element produced from radioactive decay in the soil; it's an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas, and cited as the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, and the second leading cause of lung cancer in the general population.

Radon surveys have shown that 6 percent of homes in the U.S. have average concentrations above the recommended maximum level. However, the Kansas survey demonstrated that one in four homes were high, said Bruce Snead, Kansas State University Research and Extension residential energy specialist.

"Anyone can be vulnerable," said Snead, who explained that the cancer-causing gas, which can seep from the soil beneath the foundation through cracks or joints (in the foundation) into a home, is typically easy to detect and mitigate at a moderate cost.

"Detection is relatively simple," said Snead, who recommends beginning with a home radon detector, which, in its simplest form, can be purchased

from many K-State Research and Extension offices in the state (for about \$5), at home and hardware stores and on the Internet, usually for \$25 or less.

"Testing is important, because it's the only way to tell how much of the gas is present," said Snead, who explained that, in Kansas, since 1987, 41 percent of the 50,182 test results available had levels above the recommended ceiling of 4.0 pCi/L (Pico Curies per liter of air, is the unit of measurement).

Conduct tests in the home in the lowest lived-in level about 20 to 24 inches above the floor for two to five days. The goal is to measure the potential for elevated concentrations that come from the soil beneath the home's foundation. Testing in a kitchen or bathroom, in which more humid air and ventilation is typically occurring, is not recommended. Following test directions is a must.

If the initial test result is 4 pCi/L or higher, a follow-up test is recommended. Consider fixing your home if the average of the first and second test is 4 pCi/L or higher. If

the initial result is low, further testing would be advised if living patterns change, if you begin occupying a lower level, or a significant change occurs in the foundation, heating/cooling systems or insulation/air sealing features. Hiring a professional contractor to fix your home is recommended.

More information about radon is available via the Kansas Radon Program at K-State Research and Extension offices throughout the state, online at www.kansasradonprogram.org and by calling: 1-800-693-5343.

Radon programs at Kansas State University are supported by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency, and serve as a state and national resource on radon awareness, testing, and mitigation.

Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu with questions or comments or to pick up a radon testing kit.

Till next week - Marty

Church of Christ  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 9 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.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 10:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Seventh-Day  
Adventist Church  
423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor James McCurdy  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

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

Salem Lutheran Church  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Communion 3rd Sunday

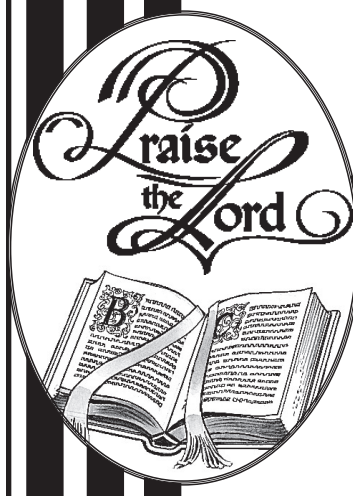
Solid Rock  
Baptist Church  
412 S. Denison  
Welcomes You!  
Pastor Allen Coon  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30  
Prayer Meeting, Wed  
7:30 p.m.

First Christian Church  
Pastor Jeff Landers  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Church Service 10 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



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