

## Legislature must deal with broken tax laws

There is one thing the Kansas Legislature must do before it adjourns "sine die," and that is to fix the state's tax system so it works as intended.

The 2012 Legislature left the system in a terrible mess. It adopted income-tax cuts proposed by Gov. Sam Brownback but not the corresponding adjustments - such as eliminating some tax deductions, or loopholes, and retaining the state's sales tax at 6.3 percent.

With the balancing moves, the state would have enough money to finance its current spare budget. Without them, experts project a \$267 million "shortfall" in the next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Everyone agreed on the problem, but no one could agree on how to plug that hole. The Senate passed a tax plan believing the House would agree to a conference committee to hash out the shortage, but that didn't happen. The governor signed the bill, apparently feeling the Legislature would have to come to its senses.

So far this year, however, there's been no change in the mood of either chamber. The House is reluctant to keep the higher sales tax. The rate is now 6.3 percent, but is scheduled to drop to 5.8 percent. House members say voters were promised the sales tax passed under Gov. Mark Parkinson during the Great Recession would be temporary. They still seem to feel that way.

The Senate, like the House, now is controlled by conservative allies of the governor, and in theory, he should be calling the shots. From here, however, the members of both chambers seem to be a lot more independent than critics claim. Getting them together could be a real trick.

And while we're comfortable with the current level of state spending, hardly anyone thinks another \$267 million in cuts won't hurt.

Compromise? So far, no one is talking about it. We think, however, that's what voters would like to see. And we're not real picky about how it's done. Right now, public schools are nervous, universities are sweating another round of cuts, the highway fund has been robbed twice already and advocates for the disabled, mental-health care and prisons, and a host of others are clamoring for more money.

A combination of retaining some sales tax and adjusting some tax rates makes sense. The governor has pinned a lot of his hopes on his plan to eliminate the income tax, but even he did not plan to do it this year. With a big start made, there's no hurry to polish it off - at least not for most of us.

Better to adopt a sensible plan, than wait a year or two and see how things go.

Sensible. Legislature. Governor. That may be asking for a lot, but we think it's vital to the state's future. - Steve Haynes



## Legislative News

### Liquor, judiciary, KPERS

I would like to thank everyone that contacted me during the session this year. The input from the 120th district constituents is very important to me. There are many issues that I receive both sides of a concern but it helps me get a feel for how northwest Kansas wants to be represented. I have answered each e-mail received, if the e-mail is from our district and is not a form letter. I try to answer the day I receive the contact.

Receiving hundreds of e-mails that are form letters from a lobbying group really does no good as every legislator I know simply deletes them. The other e-mail concern is when a response is forwarded to a lobbyist group.

### Updates

A few updates on some of the major areas that I received contacts:

• Judiciary - the governor signed into law a bill granting Kansas governors greater influence over selection of judges to serve on the Kansas Court of Appeals. The federal model will enable governors to nominate judges for vacancies, pending confirmation by the State Senate. The governor advocated for a move away from a nominating commission that he felt gave too much influence to lawyers.

• The Senate approved a state constitutional amendment that would apply the same process to the Kansas Supreme Court. The House did not vote on the measure. It could be considered in the 2014 session in time to place the issue on ballots next year.

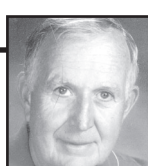
• Kansas Public Employees Retirement (KPERS) - the House, but not the Senate, advanced a bill that would authorize sale of

\$1.5 billion in bonds with money invested in the pension system to cover the anticipated \$9 billion shortfall between public employees promised members and what is projected to generate in revenue over the next 20 years.

• Liquor - all the talk did not produce a bill again this session. The session began with a huge push from large grocery and retail shopping interests to alter Kansas law blocking them from selling wine and liquor. Under current state law, those beverages are the domain of individual retail liquor stores.

Next two weeks I will highlight education, gun laws and other legislation of interest.

By Ward Cassidy



120th State Representative

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

Developments in Boston, Mass were hard to avoid last week. People across the country seemed focused on the terrorist bombing at the Boston Marathon and the subsequent man hunt for the brothers who committed the cowardly act.

Professional sports probably hold too important a place in the United States, but it also provides a haven away from the insanity.

On Saturday, less than a week after the bombing, Fenway Park,

the home of the Red Sox, allowed the citizens a place to gather, reflect on those lost and those who came to the call of duty. With a massive American flag covering the Green Monster in left field the crowd sang the National Anthem. It was clear that the acts of those who hate liberty will never beat the spirit of freedom.

The people affected by this attack will never forget, but coming together to watch the home team

play the Kansas City Royals allowed them to get lost in a baseball game, rather than the madness of man's cruelty.

Yes there are bigger and more important things in our society than pro sports, however they do provide an avenue of retreat from reality when needed.

## Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



margaretbucholtz@gmail.com

### Wish I had my Camera

Kurt and I went to Fort Morgan, Colo., this week. Occasionally I grab the camera, but this time I didn't. I wish I would have because something we saw on the way would have been worth having a picture for proof.

We had gotten into Yuma and I told him that the next bathroom he saw I wish he would stop for me. Of course we were driving by one at the time but it was on the wrong side of the road and it wasn't an emergency yet.

The next little spot on the road had a sign for a roadside park ahead and Kurt asked if I wanted to stop. Thinking, "I wonder if he just thinks I like to hear my own voice when I tell him something," but I bit my tongue and just replied, "yes."

He had to drive around a huge mud puddle to get to the little tin buildings which had "Closed" signs on them. I told him it wasn't

a biggy just drive to the next town.

Shortly there was a spot where about five buildings were tumbled down but a big Sinclair station was there. It definably wasn't a new one but it had gas pumps and there were cars being filled as we pulled into the lot. On the east side of the building there was a sign that had "Women," above the top of the door.

As he pulled to that side I looked at the door and said, "What is going on here?" The door has a big window on it?" Still thinking that it might be the entrance door I got out and went be-bopping over to the door.

Well right in front of the door was the pot, just bigger than life.

I really hate to admit that my mind was processing the thought of there isn't anyone on this side and maybe if I hurry no one will see me. I turned the knob one way and the door didn't move then I turned it the other way and it was the same thing. When I really look at the door I realized the lock was actually on the outside of the door, but I just did the responsible thing and went to the pickup.

The next town was a little bigger and I found a nice bathroom. If only I could have had a camera to prove that out here on the plains you are liable to find any kind of situation.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Paula Austin, St. Francis; Ed Marin, St. Francis; Betty Hingst, Planeview, Texas; Barbara Huffhines, Hale Center, Texas; Carl Hendricks, St. Francis;

GOD SAYS

**And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**

Galatians 6:9

## The Saint Francis Herald

(USPS 475-960)

A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050



## Nor'West Newspapers

8:30 a.m. - noon - 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

(785) 332-3162 Fax - (785) 332-3001

E-mail - sf.herald@nwkansas.com

### STAFF

Karen Krien ..... Editor/Publisher  
Tim Burr ..... Advertising Manager  
Lezlie McCormick ..... Production  
Doug Sloper ..... Office Manager  
Margaret Bucholtz ..... Columnist

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times wants 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.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Norris Anderson, St. Francis; Nicole Apprill, Lawrence; Danny Penton, St. Francis; Dave Penton, St. Francis; Phyllis Zielke, Goodland; Delphine Norton, Ness City; Spencer House Bed and Breakfast, St. Francis; Leonard Vyzourek, McDonald; Don Benjamin, St. Francis; Rodney Ritchey, St. Francis; Carolyn Wicks, Grand Island, Neb.; Gale Walz, St. Francis;

Janet Carman, St. Francis; Elmer Kellner, St. Francis; Clarence Schultz, Abilene, Texas; Marlin Brethower, Yamhill, Ore.; Gerald Urban, Bird City; Marleen Young, Bird City; Lynn Busse, Bird City; Jim Davis, Phoenix, Ariz.; Dwayne Gipe, Omaha, Neb.; Ted Partch, Bird City; Gary Bankes, Arvada, Colo.; Lisa Seymour, Overland Park

**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

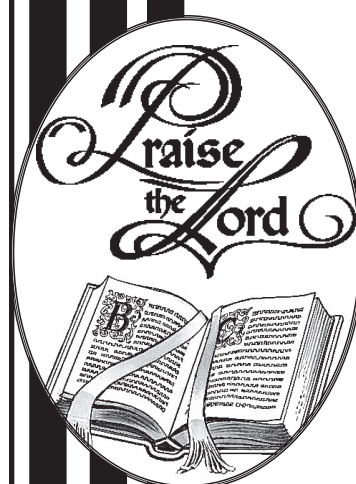
**Solid Rock**  
**Baptist Church**  
412 S. Denison  
Welcomes You!  
Pastor Allen Coon  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30  
Prayer Meeting, Wed  
7:30 p.m.

**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



St. Francis  
Equity

Saint Francis  
Herald

**Knodel**  
**Funeral Home**  
202 S. Benton • St. Francis  
785-332-3131