

Tax-rebate plan offers hope of improvements

The proposed Neighborhood Revitalization tax-incentive plan being considered by city, county and school officials is just too good an opportunity for us to pass up.

Not only might it be just the push needed to get a proposed new motel project off dead center, but it could open up a whole new realm of possibilities for development and growth in Oberlin and Decatur County.

The plan is as complex as it is simple. A property owner can get a rebate on taxes paid on new development over 10 years, based on the actual increase in the tax valuation before, after construction or renovation. Officials are talking about a \$10,000 minimum increase to qualify and have discussed setting a maximum.

Frankly, it makes no sense to put the minimum that high; any renovation of property, homes or businesses, that improves the town and will bring in more tax revenue would be a boost in our declining economy. Nor would it make sense to confine the rebates just to business property. We should encourage homeowners to fix up their property, too.

A cap on rebates would just limit the benefit the city and county might see from the program. Why do that?

The city, county, school district and other taxing agencies have little to lose. If something gets built, a new motel or a new building for an existing business, all will share in the increased revenue as the rebates fade away.

Property owners and developers would have an incentive to spend more. Any increase in construction would create some jobs and help area suppliers. The rebate would be 100 percent

of any tax increase the first year, but that goes down by 10 percent a year, so governments would benefit by the second year.

Someone will say, why give tax incentives when people might build a motel or a house without one?

Just look around and see how many construction projects are underway in this county today. People might do a lot of things. But why not actually encourage them?

The program can be complicated. A property owner has to apply for the rebates before starting work, and the county could make the plan simple or too complicated to be much good. A simple application would be best, however; one that would encourage development.

The community's attitude should be that any development would be better than none. Our economy isn't exactly booming, and we can give up some of the increased taxes over 10 years in return for having some growth and improvement.

This program already is working in Norton and Sherman counties and should soon be in effect in Colby. Other Kansas counties have had good experiences with it. In Norton, it gets credit for both commercial and housing development, things Oberlin and Decatur County could use.

The question isn't should we give tax incentives. To compete with our neighbors and to attract development, we must give tax incentives.

The question is whether we want our economy to continue to be stagnant and decline, or whether we want to push it the other way.

And that should not be a difficult decision.

- Steve Haynes

Community is asked to get involved with cancer relay

Letter to the Editor:

"I'd really like to get involved but I just don't have the time." "I'd like to help but there's really nothing I can do." "Let me think about it and I'll get back to you."

Do any of these statements sound familiar or maybe something you, yourself, have said? Do you think that someone who hears the words, "You have cancer" has the option to just forget about it or not get involved? No! This person has to push ahead with life changing decisions and they don't have to do it alone. We, as a community, need to show our support, our love, and that we are there for them.

One way to become involved is to participate in the 2013 Cheyenne County Relay for Life which will be held June 8 and 9 at Sawhill Park in St. Francis. It is not too late to form a team, even though the event is only weeks away. A team can be any number of members of any age. Each team member is asked to raise

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\$100 to receive a T-shirt. This can be done by selling luminaries or team moneymakers. Our teams have until approximately the middle of August to raise money.

Other ways to become involved are attending the supper the evening of the 8th served by the Hobo Snack Shack with proceeds of the freewill donations going to Relay. Baskets may be donated for the auction, purchasing luminaries in honor or memory of someone fighting this disease, or for a caregiver who has been alongside a survivor during their fight.

In 2012, with funds received from last year's relay, the following services were provided to fighters in Cheyenne County:

Hope Lodge: 1-served, 1-service provided.
Hope Lodge caregiver: 1-served, 1-service provided, 1-newly diagnosed service, 1-newly diagnosed service provided.

Personal health manager: 3-served, 5-service provided,

3-newly diagnosed service, 5-newly diagnosed service provided.

Transportation program: 6-served, 13-service provided, 6-newly diagnosed service, 13 newly diagnosed service provided.

Information: 1-service, 1-service provided, 1 newly diagnosed service, 1 newly diagnosed service provided.

These services are available through the American Cancer Society because of what we do in Cheyenne County. Please don't take a backseat and not become involved. We are making strides for a cure, but help us continue in this fight. Thank you!

For information or if you need assistance for yourself or a loved one, visit the website cancer.org or the 24/7 information hotline at 1-800-227-2345. Remember, you are not alone and help is available.

Pat Rose
Relay volunteer

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Barbara Stevanson, Austin, Texas; AO Rueb, Kansas City Mo; Hot Brush. Bird City; Sue Seno, Broomfield, Colo.; Dr and Mrs Tim Hoskins, Tucson, Ariz.; Joan Knodel, St. Francis; Royce Walz, Topeka; Al Bandel, Burlington, Colo.; Steve Daniels, North Attleboro, Mass; Larry Beringer, Sharon Springs; Diana Brunswig-Bosso, Arnold, Mo; Kodi Workman, St. Francis.

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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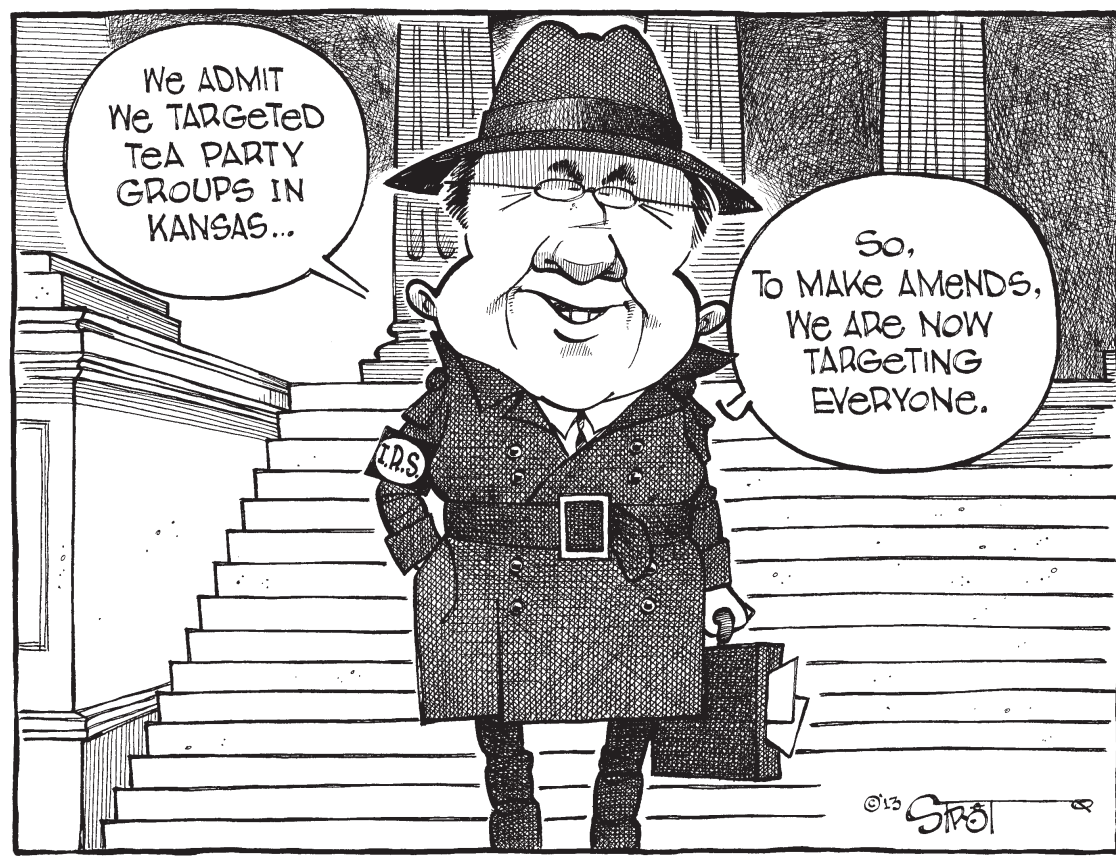
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LED sign to be delivered; donations are still needed

Letter to the Editor:

The community LED sign is scheduled to be delivered in the next few days. We'd like to thank everyone who has supported and been a part of this project and share a little history.

The LED sign project was conceived a few years ago when the St. Francis Chamber of Commerce disbanded. The Chamber donated around \$9,000 to seed the fund with the city of St. Francis. Over the last few years local supporters have donated garage sale proceeds, foundation funds, organization donations and in other ways. Local supporters realized the need to advertise not only for community and school events, but to direct highway visitors to our beautiful downtown.

Some time ago the City Council voted to fund the rest of the

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project, much like the Boy Scout Hut, 3D Theater Projector and other "special" projects have been funded and continue to encourage donations for the sign. To date over \$21,500 has been donated, we encourage others to consider giving to the project. We feel there is a good chance the sign will be fully funded by donations, however the City Council has agreed that the Travel and Tourism fund, which is a collected lodging tax from Cheyenne County, will assist if necessary.

We're excited about the possibilities....real time display, picture and video display, time and temperature display and much more. We will share more details for contacts with information for the sign in the future. If you have any

questions or suggestions we encourage you visit with a committee member. If you like to make a donation please make checks payable to:

City of St. Francis
LED Sign Project
PO Box 517
St. Francis, KS 67756

Again, thanks for your support, encouragement and enthusiasm. There are several great projects being worked on in St. Francis this summer, involving lots of volunteers - a great reflection of our community.

Have a great summer!
LED Sign committee
Roger Jensen, JR Landenberg-er, Gloria Bracelin, Carl Werner and Carla Lampe

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

If you're a Christian and not a Kansas City Royals fan, you might want to reconsider.

I don't know how many other MLB teams, or other pro sport organizations, that would be willing to do what the Royals are in this day and age. On May 25th Kauffman Stadium will hold a "Faith & Family Day."

This Saturday, following a game with the Anaheim Angels, several activities are scheduled. Players from the home team, along with Josh Hamilton, will be in contact with fans.

Hamilton has the all-to-common story to share of a young man who was living a life of addiction and sinfulness. But through faith in Christ he has turned his life

around. In addition evangelist Scott Dawson of Safe at Home will speak and entertainment will be provided by some Christian rock groups.

I find this event to be noteworthy since there is little doubt the K.C. Royals will catch flack from the politically correct who will ob-

ject to this secular public display. As for me, I liked the ball club before and look forward to supporting this entity in the future even more. Keep it up and go Royals!



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

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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