



Opinion

Takeover will disrupt the financial markets

What's the problem with the government "rescue" of General Motors?

What's to like? Where should we start? Bankers complain the takeover will disrupt financial markets by destroying investor confidence in the corporate bond market. Restructuring the company is being given precedence in bankruptcy court over the rights of bond holders, who thought they had a mortgage on the company's assets.

So much for corporate bonds. Worse yet, though, is that with the government and the United Auto Workers owning a big chunk of the reorganized company, and wielding even more influence, it's not likely that GM will ever be competitive again.

Some might argue that the company floundered because it was not competitive doing what it was doing, but that's only partly true. By and large, GM and Ford Motors, the other big American automaker, had finally learned the lessons of the market. They'd started making more cars people wanted at prices people would pay. Reliability came close to matching vaunted German and Japanese standards.

But GM, Ford and Chrysler Corp. all committed the "sin" of catering to the market. They built vehicles people would buy, not vehicles someone thought they ought to buy. That means trucks and large SUVs when Democrats thought they should be building electric cars.

GM and Ford built those too, but maybe too little, too late for the high gas prices we saw last year. Then, stuck with lots full of big vehicles, they had nowhere to turn.

What will happen with the auto workers union and the administration in charge, though?

Is the union going to want to lay off workers when the market calls for it? We're not betting on it.

And when people's tastes turn back to big pickups and big SUVs, will the government allow the automakers to build them and make money? Or will it force them to sell tiny cars at a tiny profit, ensuring that they will forever be irrelevant?

This is no small matter, because markets do not respond as we think they should, no matter what our beliefs, but as they will. People buy what they want and drive what they want. That may mean "green" vehicles one year and SUVs the next, with no logic involved in the switch.

The models for government-run enterprises set by the Soviet Union and the British socialists after World War II do not suggest a bright future for government-run carmakers in this century. Maybe our leaders know better how to run an enterprise than the Brits, but we doubt it.

Lastly, the end result of the Chrysler and GM restructuring will be a strengthening of the European auto industry at America's expense as Italy's Fiat takes over not just Chrysler, but also GM's European operations, including Opel and Saab.

For a nation that has lost so many of its basic manufacturing industries, including steel and clothing, electronics and so many others, this could be a bitter pill to swallow.

How many of Detroit's jobs, in the end, will we export to the Continent or the South?

This reorganization may be slightly better than nothing, but in the end, it blows an ill wind. Little good can come of it. — Steve Haynes

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkans.com It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to a halt. Seems like just yesterday the boys were going through two-a-day football practices and the swimming pool was still open.

Coming to grips with the thought of our oldest boy at home's upcoming graduation is tough. It is so easy to remember Trevor as a happy-go-lucky kid hanging out with his buddies. Now he is becoming a man and will soon be

on his own. Where did the time go? Day in and day out, we're keeping busy working to have the roof over our heads and buying groceries. So much effort and energy goes into just getting by. Before we know it the focus is on what we have to do instead of why we are doing it.

With that in mind, I'm trying to take time to enjoy this moment. Sure the responsibilities of adulthood are going to need tending to,

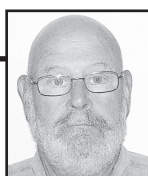
but so can reflections of our kid's lives and achievements.

To say I'm proud of him is an understatement. And it helps to know that because of his schooling, community and family, Trevor has the tools needed to venture into his future.

Best of luck to him and all of the graduating seniors of Cheyenne County.

CheyCoDeveloping

By Chuck Kribs



This past month seemed to be very busy for us, but when we looked back at the end of the month, to our dismay and frustration, we hadn't seemed to have accomplished much.

An awful lot of time was spent trying to get our arms around a couple of government programs. It seems as if the infrastructure within the agencies we were trying to deal with doesn't understand them either.

We got a lot of grant applications out to folks in the county who qualified for the appliance

replacement program and urged everyone to get them in as early as possible. The program ran out of funds in the last week of the month.

Dealing with and understanding the "Stimulus package" has also been difficult. I felt, sometimes, like Tom Cruise in the film "Jerry McGuire." It seemed as if I was calling government agencies every day... "Show me the Money!"

In most cases it is apparent that it is going to take some time to see any money, if we get any at all.

Cheyenne County has unemployment rate of under 5 percent. This works against us to some degree, as locations with high unemployment rates seem to be getting the nod on funding.

Next month, June, we will be making presentations to groups of people on the front range, letting them know what we have to offer. In the meantime...Keep On Truckin'.....

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Tom and Kelsey Raile, Cheyenne, Wyo.; C.R. Zimbelman, Boulder, Colo.; Amy Goossen, Montezuma; Dwen DeGood, St. Francis; Victoria Clapper, St. Francis; Floyd Neitzel, Wichita; Beverly Jones, Denver, Colo.; Clara Richers, Colby; Carolyn Wicks, Grand Island, Neb.;

GOD SAYS

And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

Genesis 28:15

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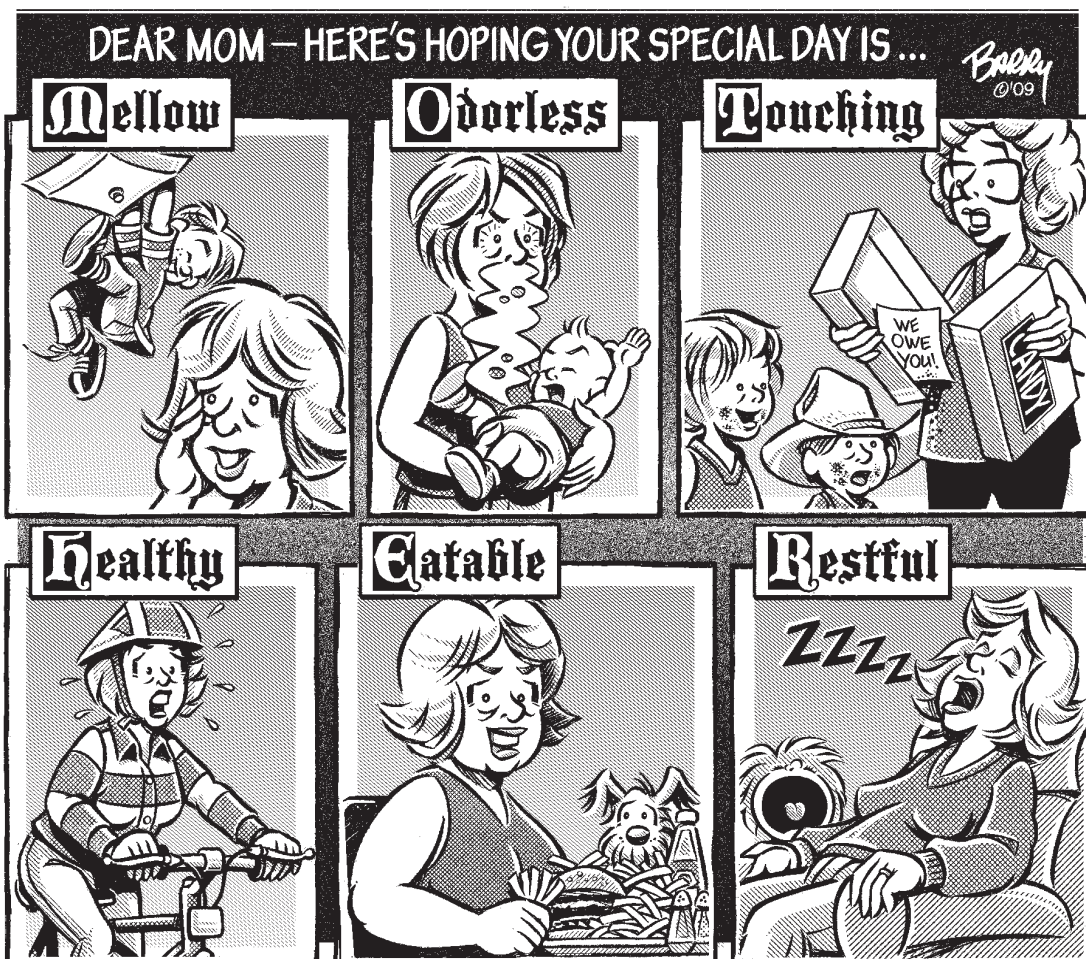


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STAFF

Karen Krien Editor/Publisher
Betty Winston Sports Editor
Casey McCormick Advertising Manager
Lezlie McCormick Production
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News From the Past

90 years ago - 1919

Children from the first to sixth grades inclusive have been chosen to present the musical "One Midsummer's Day." The operetta has been prepared as a part of the music course in note singing.

Pap Winters has begun the preliminary work for the construction of his new building to be erected on Main Street where the Roberts barber shop now stands. The lower floor will be used as a home for some business enterprise while the upper floor will be divided into a 20-room hotel. The barber shop building will be moved from the front of the lot. This will make a dandy improvement in the business section.

75 years ago - 1934

The board of county commissioners made the appointment and approved the bond of Fred Reichert for clerk of Wano township. He was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of George Klie.

Pete Bergman, popular restaurant man over at Colby, is working steadily this week to get his place of business in the Fallis building in St. Francis ready for opening. They are installing a good set of fixtures, including a soda fountain, booths and horseshoe counter. The St. Francis business is to be operated by his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn McGinley.

After serving in the mail department at St. Francis for about 12 years, W.F. Greer relinquished his post as postmaster last Monday. He retired to

the farm just south of town. The new man behind the wicket is L.D. Dowling, another popular St. Francis citizen.

35 years ago - 1974

As the best speller in Cheyenne County, Greg Waters, an eighth grade student from Bird City, will be representing the county in the state spelling bee in Topeka.

Stop signs will be removed from Washington Avenue in St. Francis on a trial basis. There will be stop signs at all approaches to Washington, but the four-way stops will be eliminated at least on a trial basis.

Laura Lee Keller, a junior at St. Francis Community High School, has been chosen by the American Legion Auxiliary to attend Sunflower Girls State.

The new owners of *The Saint Francis Herald* and the *Bird City Times* are Neil and Lorraine Burrows. They will be taking over from the present publishers, Dick and Nancy Hale.

Winning gold medals at the state speech contest were Todd Sherlock, Laurie Mills, Brad Smull and Kathy Zwegardt.

Mr. and Mrs. James Edmundson announced this week that they plan to open their new Starlite Drive-in Theatre in St. Francis on May 2. The snack bar, speakers, screen, projection and sound equipment are all ready.

New cheerleaders for next fall have been announced. They are Coleen Brunow, Penny Keller, Cindy Grace, Lisa Powell, Donita Zwegardt and Gay Henderson.

The Eagle Badge, the highest

rank of Scouting, will be awarded to Mike Richard of Troop 120, St. Francis, at a Court of Honor on May 5 in the United Methodist Church.

The junior senior prom theme is "Pieces of April."

10 years ago - 1999

Members of the Brownie Scout Troop and one Junior Scout helped with the planting of trees at the Cheyenne Manor and fairgrounds.

Several of the chiefs from the Dog Soldier Cheyenne Indian Tribe will be returning to St. Francis this week for the dedication of a historical marker at Cherry Creek. Cherry Creek is the campsite where Sand Creek survivors rested and recuperated after their battle.

Forty seniors will graduate from St. Francis Community High School on Sunday, May 16. Gabe Jenkins is the class president and Dustin Weeden the vice president.

Jennifer Henderson has signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Kansas Wesleyan University.

Tana Dale has taken the position of ad manager for *The Saint Francis Herald* and the *Bird City Times*.

Nine tracksters qualify for state competition including Michelle Young, Heather Sowers, Rebecca Montoya, Tyler Raile, Jon Zwegardt, Chad Raile, Dustin Weeden, Derek Jamison and Aaron Lindsten.

Missy Shield will be traveling to Jamaica this summer with Spotlight Ministries.

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.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 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 Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jerry Nowack
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 Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Eve. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Communion 1st Sunday of the month

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

St. Francis Equity

St. Francis Herald

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