



Opinion

Solid companies are not so 'solid' anymore

Financial advisors used to tell widows that, no matter what happens, they could depend on the "blue chips" in their stock portfolios: you know, solid companies like AT&T, Chrysler, General Motors.

Only now, AT&T is gone, having dwindled away until one of its "Baby Bell" offspring bought it up. Chrysler and GM, both in bankruptcy.

What is this world coming to?

The car business, for one, just isn't what is used to be. And when the administration gets done "saving" GM and Chrysler, it'll be even more different than it is today.

There's an agenda there, lots of them, in fact: Smaller cars, more gas mileage, no more big SUVs. Bond holders were treated, not as banks or people with money invested, but like speculators with no real interest in the companies, let alone money invested.

The administration clearly wants the companies to build the cars it thinks people should have, not the ones they might want.

One wag said, when people decide they want big pickups again, Ford (unburdened by bankruptcy and federal "aid") should be in a good position to make them — and make a lot of money.

Right now, the industry is sitting on plenty of big vehicles, though. If you want a truck, you can expect a big discount.

Americans have shown that they will drive what they want, however, and they pay little heed to what they "should" drive or the price of fuel — for the good of the economy or the environment.

One of the strangest agendas is the idea that to make money, the big automakers need to get rid of thousands of their dealers.

Congress and the administration seem to buy into this plan, which supposedly would get rid of nearly a third of all the dealerships with each

big firm. How that will help either recover is uncertain.

All the "Big 3" automakers have been slimming their dealer list for years, refusing to replace those — especially those in small towns — that close or go broke. That was a process of slow attrition, though, because state laws and dealer franchise contracts made it tough to get rid of a dealer who wanted to stay.

Bankruptcy changes all the rules, however, and with the power of a federal judge to void contracts, the companies could call the shots.

Their choices seemed to make little sense, though. Small, barely profitable dealers got a pass in some cases while larger firms in bigger towns were told they'd have to close. No one could, or would, say why.

One pattern did emerge: many dealer contracts to be voided seemed to involve dealerships that sold more than one automaker's products under the same roof. That was the case with Colby's Taylor Motors, which while retained by Chrysler, faces loss of its GM territory next year.

Are the automakers using bankruptcy to achieve ends that would be difficult, maybe even illegal, otherwise? Could be.

Why would they close profitable dealers, dealers who were moving cars for them?

Clearly, this is not something the government should be pushing. Why close dealerships that employ thousands when the country is trying to push recovery and create jobs?

Our congressman, Jerry Moran, has questioned this type of action. We all should be. Rural America, in particular, does not need to lose any more jobs. Dealers who can make the grade should be allowed to live.

Our communities and the dealers' employees depend on them. The administration and Congress should defend these dealers, not abandon them. — Steve Haynes



AS CONSTRUCTION WOES CONTINUE, BUILDERS SIMPLIFY PROCEDURES...

News From the Past

10 years ago - 1999

Carl Werner, secretary and treasurer of the St. Francis Lions Club, was presented with the International President's Certificate of Appreciation due to the fact that Mr. Werner has kept the club in contact with Lions Clubs International with outstanding reports. He has also given many hours of service in local projects.

Marilyn Holzwarth in less than six months has made hundreds of tiny newborn clothes for Newborns in Need. There are used for tiny babies whose mothers have little offer.

Two members of the class of 1924, 75 years ago, live in St. Francis and at least one of them plans on attending the St. Francis Community High School Alumni Reunion. The two grad-

uates are Ruby Harkins and Dr. Mona Frick.

After almost nine months, Cheyenne County has a new county agent. David Lott's first day at the extension office was June 21.

25 years ago - 1984

Men are busy making a detour road west of town so a new and wider bridge can be constructed on U.S. 36.

Hangin' With Marge

Alumni Reunions

By Margaret Bucholtz



St. Francis just had their honor class reunions. I went as Kurt's spouse and because I am having knee problems I chose to sit down at a table. It was a great experience and one that I had not had before. Usually I will stand by Kurt and enter into the conversations.

Just as I sat down, there was a couple more spouses that came over and asked if this was the spouse table? I told them "yes" so they joined me. While observing from the table I learned a lot that I want to share with the younger generations so they will know what to expect at their 45-plus class reunions.

First off, you will arrive at the destination for the group meeting on Friday evening. As you enter the door, the first thought you will have is "What are all of those old people doing here?" Keep looking as you will soon spot a few of your classmates that still live in town and know that you are at the right place.

Some of those you will be able to recognize as they look like their mothers and fathers did when you were in school. Believe me, that can be a lifesaver as they walk toward you expecting you to know who they are.

One of the spouses at our table said, "When the door opens up watch the classmate's eyes — you can read their minds." Sure enough — each one would have that "I should know that person"

look in them. Quickly they will turn to someone they are talking with and the room whispers the rumbling of quiet voices, saying, "Do you know who that is?"

I have decided that the way to avoid this would be — you are the first person to the reunion. As the next person, you don't know walks through the door you would stick out your hand and say, "I'm Joe Blow" (actually using your name) and I don't think I have ever met your spouse?" (Of course you have done your homework and memorized all the spouses, names.) When they introduce you to the spouse then you know who the classmate is. After that you can pretty well move on because, before the new person walks in, someone else will whisper who they are and you never have to look like you have forgotten anyone.

There was one who came in the door and introduced himself as he had never been back for a reunion

before. That was great; nobody had to have that "deer in the headlight look" for him.

We have been to most of Kurt's honor years, but usually only go on the Friday night occasion. I am sure most of you wonder why that is, so I will explain it to you.

On Kurt's 20th year we went to the entire weekend events. I had a great time, but it was before Kurt and I were married.

After walking around that evening, in line getting my plate for the dinner banquet, and just talking with the entire classes there, we started to leave. As we got outside, Kurt said, "Margaret, you have something stuck on your dress. Like maybe you sat in something." I reached around and sure enough I had something stuck to my dress. It was Kurt's name tag.

I have never trusted him enough again to go with him to another one!

GOD SAYS
If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
II Chronicles 7:14

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@nwkansan.com

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Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



Word has come out that baseball slugger, Sammy Sosa, is the latest star to have been swallowed up into the sport's doping quagmire. The memories of 1998, when Sosa and Mark McGwire battled for the home-run title, will be forever tainted by both men's pasts.

But I believe that the "Great American Past-time" will survive and the game will be cleaned up. Each player will have to rely on his own, God given talents once again.

No other professional sport is like baseball when it comes to numbers. Every aspect of the

game, from its beginnings in the 19th century to today, is comparable. That is part of what makes the steroid era deserve to be singled out.

But through statistics and records, most anything can be compared or tied together.

Just for fun I put the names of two players into a program called Oracle of Baseball at baseball-reference.com. I wanted to see if I could find a common bond between one of the all time greats to a modern day type: Ted Williams to Sammy Sosa.

Here's what I got. Williams played with Jim Suhecki on the

1950 Boston Red Sox. Suhecki teamed with Bob Friend on the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1952. Friend was a teammate of Nolan Ryan on the 1966 New York Mets. Finally, Sammy Sosa and Ryan played together with the 1989 Texas Rangers.

Just to prove a point. You really have to dig to compare someone like Sosa to a ball player like "Teddy Ball-game." With time, apples will be held up to apples again.

Chuck and Diane Kribs, North of Bird City

Money spent needs to create jobs

Letter to the Editor:

I want to make it clear that this letter expresses my/our opinion and not that of the Cheyenne County Development Corporation or it's board members.

I read in the comments about the last Bird City City Council meeting, about a proposal to spend about a million dollars, of someone's money, to put new sidewalks and streetlights in the Bird City

Letter to the Editor

downtown area. I/we are 100 percent against that idea. Bird City has fewer real jobs, fewer businesses and more empty homes than it did a few years ago. If there is a million dollars available to be spent, it MUST be spent on creating a facility, an enterprise, a business which will create jobs! The kind of jobs

that retain and attract our youth, build our tax base, grow commerce. Bird City has one, ONE business open after 7 p.m., ONE. That's all! JOBS, JOBS, JOBS... If we don't get JOBS, we won't need ANY streetlights.

<p>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.</p>	<p>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</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>United Methodist Church 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.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer No Sunday School Morning Worship 10:30 a.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>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Jerry Nowack Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</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>Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC 202 N. College Pastor Ken Hart 332-2928 Pars. 332-2312 Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday of the Month</p>

Praise the Lord

St. Francis Equity

Saint Francis Herald

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