

## It's hard to find a hero in the mortgage mess

It's hard to find a hero in the mortgage mess that's put the brakes on the American economy.

Not the mortgage companies, whose greed led them to plaster paper all over the place. Some of these supposedly solid outfits apparently would make a home loan to just about anyone who asked — good credit, bad credit, no credit, just like a low-grade used car dealer on television.

And these "subprime" loans became the basis for borrowing by once-reputable, government backed firms as if they were solid mortgages, not pipe dreams.

Not the people who got the loans, for sure. Their greed nearly matches the mortgage brokers'.

Where is it writ that every family must have a home loan and a mountain of debt, anyway? Shouldn't people at least consider whether they can pay back the debt they take out?

Apparently not. Then we have the government officials, who stood by while all these loans were being made. Now, they say they'll ride to the rescue, but it'll be too late for millions of families who've already gone down the tubes.

The administration waited months while Congress wrestled with the loan crisis. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. made a bailout pitch months ago — the so-called "teaser freezer" — but no one did anything.

Not Congress, for sure. Having allowed this debacle, Congress argued endlessly, but has yet to enact a mortgage freeze or any other solution of this crisis.

As, while everyone talked and argued, the economy started sliding into the tank. You'd think they'd learn, but in Washington, that's not in the cards.

Many of the loans now in trouble should just never have been made. So-called teaser rates let people get into a house, but these loans would "reset" a couple of interest points higher after two years.

Many people, faced with a 30 percent or more jump in their payment, just turned their houses back to the bank. Others were already in trouble, unable to pay even the introductory rates.

Where were the regulators, the Congress, the administration while all this was going on, anyway?

It should have been obvious that a housing boom fueled by a big balloon in "subprime" (read that shaky) loans was going to collapse, and sooner rather than later.

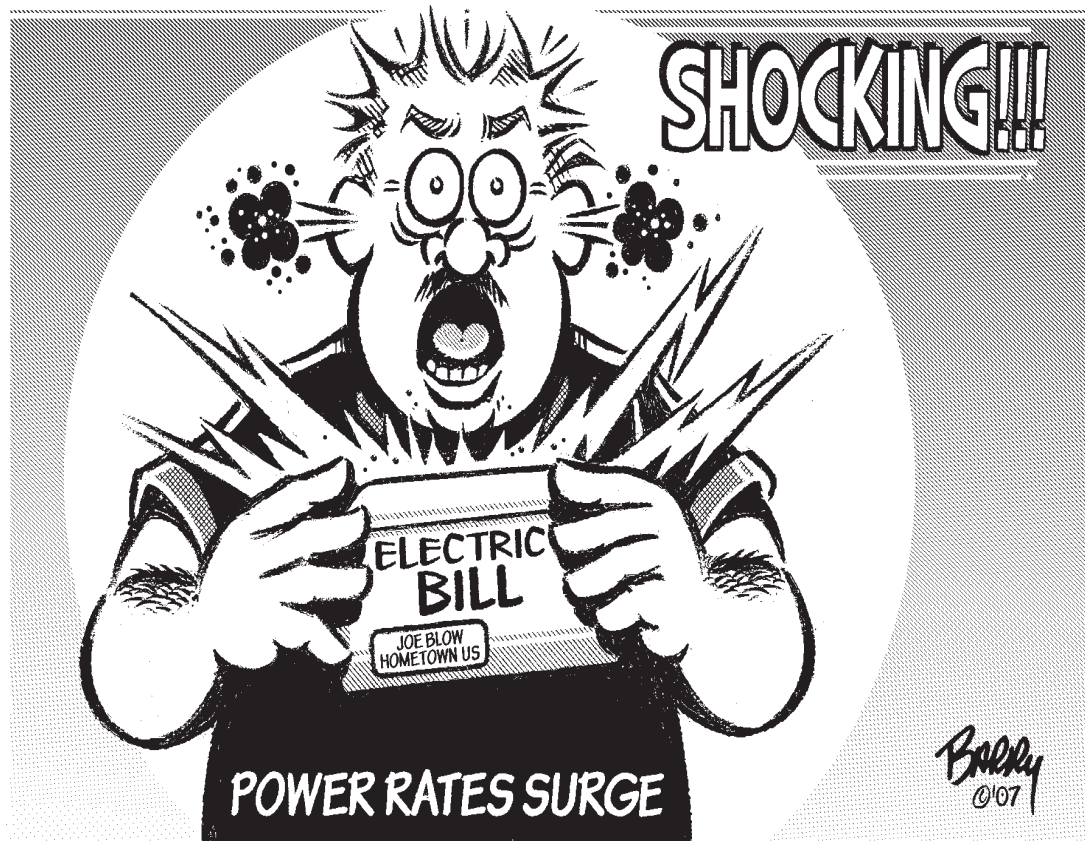
The system stood by, waiting for something to happen.

Now it has. And we're all going to pay the price for this greed-fueled idiocy.

It'd be nice if we could expect more from Washington, but sadly, we can't. It should be a lesson for the country, which always calls on the government to solve its problems.

Often, the government is the problem, not the solution.

Yeah, you'd think we'd learn. — Steve Haynes



## News From the Past

### 5 years ago - 2002

Leon Brethower, Bird City, and Kelly Gienger, St. Francis, will be coming to the end of their term on the Cheyenne County Hospital Board at the end of December.

Bronson, the new drug dog, as arrived in Cheyenne County and works with under sheriff Cliff Flock.

Members of the Lawn Ridge 4-H Club spent Friday morning gathering items for the Cheyenne County Food Pantry.

The seventh and eighth grade girls presented the musical *Katastrofpe Kate* at the high school on Dec. 17.

The city council was informed that the St. Francis Recycling Center is nearing completion and the baler will arrive shortly after the first of the year.

On Dec. 28, three members of the St. Francis Community High School Pom Squad will be on their way to Orlando, Fla., to dance at the Citrus Bowl half-time performance. They were chosen "All American" last summer at the

### Elites Summer Dance Camp.

Dylan Loyd at 112 pounds placed first at the St. Francis Invitational Wrestling Tournament. Saintry as a team placed fourth.

### 20 years ago - 1987

Cheyenne Historical Society members unloaded 865 Cheyenne County History Books early this month.

High school students named to the high honor roll include Crystal DeGood and Ryan Shay, seniors; Adele Cram, Jeff Dankenbring, Kari Milliken, Jeff Neel, Peter O'Brien and Stephanie Renk, juniors; Joanna Scoby, sophomore and Jeremy Busby, Tobin Davis and Lisa Raile, freshmen.

The board members of USD 297 accepted a gift of \$6,939.53 cents from the Alice Danielson estate and a memorial scholarship fund for Kellie Crane for the amount of \$1,056.

"Girl Crazy" is the title of the junior class play to be performed Nov. 21 and 22.

### 35 years ago - 1972

In the elections held Tuesday

there was a good turnout in Cheyenne County with over 1900 voters going to the polls. In local races Ena Zimelman is the Clerk of the District Court, Art Lueschen is the Probate Judge and Carma Leta Sherlock is Register of Deeds.

The Board of Directors of Riverside Recreation have announced the reopening of the dining room with Phyllis Johnson taking over the management.

The junior class of the St. Francis Community High School will be presenting the play "The Great Big Doorstep" on Nov. 20.

The City of St. Francis is doing their part to encourage holiday lighting again this year. They offer free electricity for the holiday home decorating.

Representing Cheyenne County at the State Farm Bureau meeting were Mrs. Flossie Byerly, Mrs. Verda Smull, Mrs. Pauline Herman, Junior Smull, Dale Rath and Mrs. Mary Rath. Mrs. Herman was honored as one of the 10 outstanding leaders in the state of Kansas.

## Hangin' With Marge

### Christmas Memory

By Margaret Bucholtz



[margeb@cityofstfrancis.net](mailto:margeb@cityofstfrancis.net) Christmas is upon us and I am not ready! As I was sitting here thinking about what to get for everyone I thought about a Christmas several years ago.

I had just lost my father, who was very dear to me, and we happened to be in Denver at a shopping mall.

Kurt and I went into a store where there were all kinds of pictures hanging on a wall. As I walked around looking at them I spotted a picture of a father with his daughter on an old tractor going down a country road. The dog was following behind. My thoughts turned to my childhood

and I thought about the tractor as it looked like the old Case I learned to drive with. The dog looked like my childhood pet "Old Boots" and of course, the father was dressed in overalls and a straw hat like my father used to wear to the field.

As I stood there looking at the picture memories of my father rose to the top and instantly the tears started rolling down my cheeks.

Kurt came over beside me and I asked him to help me get out of the store so I could go to the bathroom and cry.

He walked me to that long hallway and watched as I hurried down the corridor. By this time I was sobbing and I met a lady coming toward me. Very quietly the lady put her arm around me and said, "Honey, things will be better soon."

I didn't know her, but her words of encouragement were so nice. This year, I will still miss my father, but my children and grandchildren will be with us and that makes things OK.

That year for Christmas I received the picture as a gift from Kurt.

Family, friends and loved ones are the true meaning of Christmas spirit.

## Honor Rolls

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Royce Kehlbeck, Bird City; Pat and Laura Lamb, St. Francis; John Hartman, Loxley, Ala.; Brian Brent, Fort Collins, Colo.; Dale Rath, St. Francis; Janis Elfers, Goodland; Jan McClelland, Goodland; Glenn Isernhagen, St. Francis; Thelma Raile, St. Francis; Royce Cook, St. Francis; Lana Duvall, St. Francis; Justin Gardner, St. Francis; Heather Leibbrandt, St. Francis; Roger Meitl, St. Francis; Patsy Rethke, St. Francis; Vicky Hill, Salina; Waunita Fritchel, Loveland, Colo.;

Shauna Hausback, ; Helen Peter, St. Francis; Ward Cassidy, St. Francis; Virginia Cooper, St. Francis; Gene Mears, McDonald; Jane Oliver, Ordway, Colo.; Terry Corder, St. Francis; Kendra Hoffman, Bison; Howard Poulignot, St. Francis; Stacie Wenzl, Phillipsburg; Harold Guthmiller, Aberdeen, S.D.; Joy Rae Hunter, Saginaw, Mich.; Bob Bixler, St. Francis; Marlene Brown, Red Bluff, Calif.; Fred Isernhagen, Centennial, Colo.;

Ruth Appel, Atwood; Don Hartford, Haigler, Neb.; Leonard Hilt, Marble Falls, Texas; Brooke Lucas, Kansas City, Mo.; Don Whitmore, St. Francis; Mark Hilt, St. Francis; Mark Cooper, St. Francis; Deanna Grice, St. Francis; Emmett Seaman, St. Francis; Dr. Shalom LaForge, Wichita; Christina Blair, St. Francis; Jack Maupin, Haigler, Neb.; Darrel Zweggardt, St. Francis; Callicrate Feedyard, St. Francis; Dolores Wiley, St. Francis; Kenneth Asche, Ogallala, Neb.; Norma Jean Molle, Mission; Harold Connett, Bird City; Garrett Sundstrom, St. Francis; Amanda L'Heureux, St. Francis; Thelma Sherlock, Goodland; Steve Workman, St. Francis;



**GOD SAYS**  
Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.  
Matthew 11:28

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



[scmcormick@nwkansas.com](mailto:scmcormick@nwkansas.com) You know it's winter on the plains when the winds blows stout from the north and sends snow and ice sideways. The best place is the comfort of the indoors.

I like it the most when there is something simmering on the stove, like a big pot of chili or stew. Or it can be a piece of meat turning tender in a crockpot. The smell invites you inside and lets you know that the cold won't keep you from enjoying a hot meal.

Last Saturday was just one of those evenings. Lezlie set the scene with a simmering batch of what they call out here, "chili soup."

As the tomatoes, beef and beans worked their magic, we had some time to kill. Earlier we had picked up a puzzle from the back of the newspaper office.

This one had a picture of a large, fat man with a long white beard wearing a bright red suit and white fur on the cuffs. He was being served a plate of cookies by an equally large woman in a long red dress. They were in a neat little cottage with a fireplace blazing below a mantle covered in holly, poinsettias and stockings. Toys covered the floor as the fat man looked over a long, long list with boys' and girls' names on it.

The picture was nice but I knew it had to be make believe. That's because there were these little guys, about the size of a prairie dog, running around wearing tights and they had funny pointed ears, just like Mr. Spock from Star Trek.

Lezlie and I worked on the puzzle and with a little help from Joey and his overnight buddy, Josh Teeters, we had it finished that evening. We also had big bowls of chili soup with crackers and cheese.

Yep, it was a great way to spend a cold, winter's night!

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**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 10:30 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.  
St. Francis Community Church  
332-3150  
204 N. Quincy Street  
[www.sfccfamily.com](http://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 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.

**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: 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

**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  
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.  
Church Service 10:30 a.m.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor Mike Larson  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

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