



Publisher writes thank you to the government

Dear Congress,
I wanted this to be a thank you letter for the tax rebate check you approved earlier this year and will start sending out in May.

But I don't know anymore.
I know the objective of the checks is to get people to spend money to supposedly get our economy back on track - whatever that means these days. I've already spent mine.

At the end of May, my family and I are flying to Georgia for a good friend's wedding. When he called last summer and asked me to be in his wedding, I was flattered. After I hung up I was also flattered after adding up how much it will cost to go to Georgia. As you probably guessed, I spent that entire rebate check in one place. Anyway, I did what you wanted to be done with those checks - spent.

I didn't want to call my friend and back out of the offer because how much it will cost to go. Friendships shouldn't be founded on finances. That doesn't happen in D.C., does it?

Flying was the best option. We considered driving, but you know how gasoline prices have been.

Some have said the best way to jump-start the economy is to force gasoline companies to sell their product at \$2 a gallon. That means more people will drive and spend money on other things. T. Boone Pickens said this country spends more per year on gasoline than the Iraq War, but you never hear about it. If the Middle East oil-producing countries get smart and start building oil refineries too, that means gasoline will go even higher and we're in bigger trouble. Can you do anything about that?

Why don't we force health-care providers and facilities to lower their prices so people are not spending money on those services? Make grocery store chains lower the price food too. That will help. Where would those suggestions stop?

The best economic-engine I've heard is to lower taxes. What do you think?

I'm not convinced these checks will be the cure all. Some people will be able to pay on their mortgage, but depending upon where they live and the cost of their home, that check, like mine, will also be spent at one place at one time. The people who are still struggling with their sub-prime mortgage will still be in a world of hurt.

Then there are people who will continue their suspicious spending habits with the money. Gamblers, who already are in financial trouble, will have more to gamble. Las Vegas is already

hurting because of the woes. Substance abusers will be able to buy and use more substance. I know you can't help what people will do with their checks.

I'll respect the people who do wonderful things with their rebate checks; save, invest wisely or help a worthy charity.

Some people have told me our current situation reminds them of Revelation in the Bible. The world gets into money trouble. A loaf of bread is worth a bag of gold. Those people have wondered if we are now taking proverbial baby steps to the end of the world.

And it's an election year. When we find the leader everybody likes, then the Revelation-reference will make even more sense. Remember, not everyone likes Obama, Clinton or McCain and so on. Others laugh at the notion.

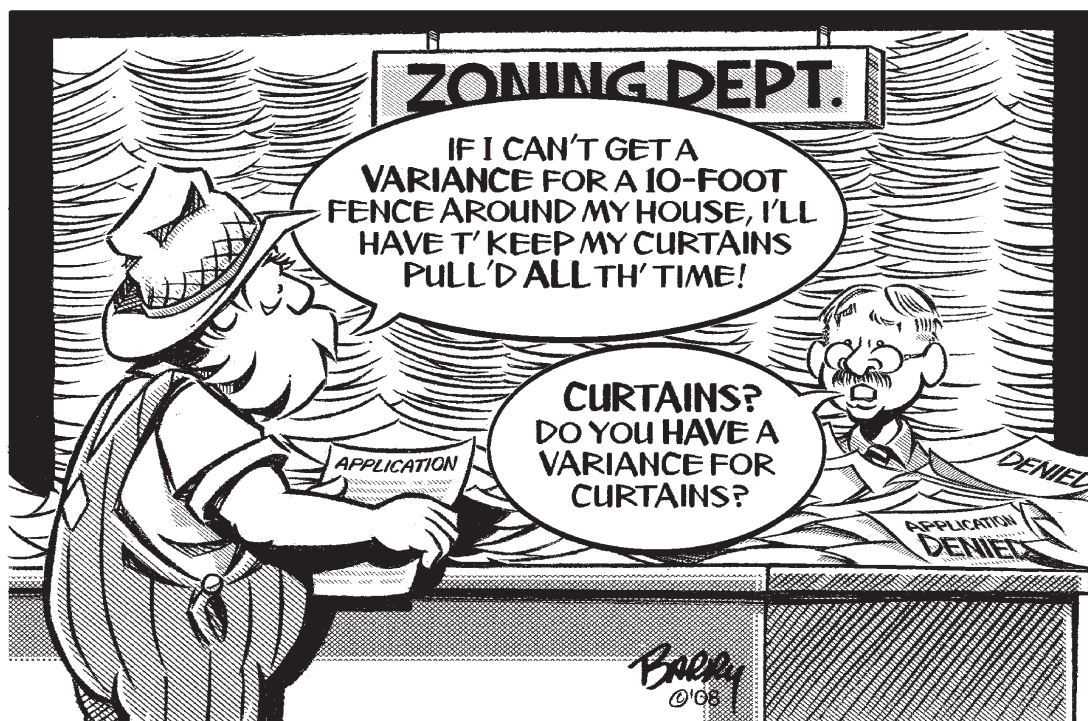
I'm not laughing.
What prevents me from making this a thank you letter for the rebate, is what is behind it all. Kansas Rep. Jerry Moran said the funds for the checks came from China. That's not a big surprise since most of America is made in China and you don't seem to care. Over the years stockholders of American companies have forced the relocation of American jobs to low-pay China so they can get a bigger return on their investment. That is at the expense of American people who need the job to buy whatever product they make. Do those stockholders' profits fund your campaigns?

China's economy is much better than ours because we are driving their economic development. The Communist reign to determine the flow of money helps too.

Now, it seems like America is supporting slave-labor again. Yes, you read that right. We have just polished it compared to how it was done in the States in the 1800s. Back then, slaves were only given food and housing. In China, many factory workers are paid enough only to afford food and paltry housing. What's the difference? Not every landowner then could afford slaves (it was a costly practice). But now, more companies are finding ways to have their product made and imported from China and create more slave-labor.

I know it sounds like I should decline that rebate check, but you wanted me to have it for the benefit of the country. I can respect that, I think. But friendships shouldn't be founded on finances. That doesn't happen in D.C., does it?

— John Van Nostrand is publisher of Colby Free Press.



PERSONAL PRIVACY AT ODDS WITH PUBLIC POLICY...

News From the Past

10 years ago - 1998

The Chamber of Commerce is encouraging the repair and repainting of the wooden benches in town. Seventeen of the benches have the name of the business which bought them a number of years ago and there are 11 additional benches. It is hoped to have them ready for the Stearman Fly-in.

St. Francis Community High School graduation took place on May 17. Brooke Draper was the class president and Andy Zweygardt was the vice president.

The St. Francis Public Library is celebrating its 10th year since its opening in the new facility on the corner of Scott and Jackson streets.

At the recent school board meeting, resignations were accepted from Jo Koster, high school English and journalism teacher, and Kim Krenning, kindergarten instructor. Betty

Sherlock resigned as grade school cook after 13 years.

Winners of the Scout Pinewood Derby included Dustin Confer, first; Heath Kibel, second and Heath Owens, third.

Sixteen athletes qualified for the 2A State Track Meet in Wichita. Attending will be Heather Sowers, Rebecca Montoya, Christie Holzwarth, Roxy Stuart, Jennifer Henderson, LeAnn Schielke, Beth Renk, Becky Whipple, Nick Young, Kelley Faylor, Aaron Culwell, Tyler Raile, T.J. Burr, Brad Culwell, Aaron Lindsten and Jeff Rhoden

30 years ago - 1978

A crowd estimated at more than 400 people virtually filling the seats facing the band shell in Sawhill Park were witness to what can be done with a dedicated community effort in completing a public project. The crowd was gathered for the re-dedication of Sawhill Park, after more than a year of

work. A four-wheel drive pickup truck fitted with a 200 gallon water tank has joined the Cheyenne County Rural Fire Department's equipment list.

Carla Shoemaker has been selected as one of three 4-H girls in the state to be awarded an all-expense paid trip to Minneapolis, Minn. She will be on a nutrition awareness trip. The trip is financed by the Kansas Wheat Commission.

Steve Orth is the new president of the St. Francis Jaycees. Steve Douthit is vice president, Richard Grace is treasurer and Kelly Frewen is secretary.

County population figures, compiled by Owen Watkins, county clerk, show a continuation of the slow but steady decline in the population of Cheyenne County. Total population stood at 3,976 on Jan. 1 which is a decrease of 40 from last year.

Lines from the Library

By Pat Leibbrandt

The library has the following new books: *Suddenly* by Barbara Delinsky; *A Wanted Man* by Linda Lael Miller; *Halfway To Forever* by Karen Kingsbury; *The Chocolate Jewel Case* by JoAnna Carl; *Blood Bond* by William Johnstone;

Quicksand by Iris Johansen; *Lady Killer* by Lisa Scottoline; *Zapped* by Carol Higgins Clark; *The Death Dealer* by Heather Graham; *People Of The Weeping Eye* by Michael Gear; *Guilty* by Karen Robard; *Where Are you Now* by Carol Higgins Clark.

The following new books have arrived in the children's department. We have the following new Board Books: *Richard Scarry's Cars And Trucks; Loader; The Grouchy Ladybug; Duckling; Bunny; Corduroy's Thanksgiving; Busy Barnyard* and *The Fire Engine*.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Some of life's best pleasures are pretty simple. For instance, my dear Aunt Sissy sent Lezlie and me some fruit. That may not sound like a big deal, but these were beautiful lemons and grapefruit that she picked from her trees in southern California.

After enjoying a slice of lemon in our ice tea, Lezlie decided to put some to another use. She has a recipe for General Robert E. Lee cake which uses lemons.

Let me try to describe this creation.

She began by whipping egg whites into a lighter-than-air meringue. This she folded in with lemon juice batter that baked up four yellowish and fluffy layer cakes.

Next she made the jelly filling that called for more juice, egg yolks, sugar and butter. This looked a lot like the inside of a

gooey, jelly-filled donut. The frosting was white, but it had the appearance of confetti with flecks of lemon and orange rind that mingled with coconut flakes.

Lezlie spent about two-and-a-half hours in the kitchen making this masterpiece. The taste of the lemons was strong and refreshing, like they had just been picked here!

It was the next best thing to getting a big hug and kiss from Aunt

Sissy in-person.

What makes this cake even better is that my family came from Kentucky and holds great reverence for General Lee. In fact, we have a long line of "Robert Lee McCormicks" to show for it.

If this cake is any indication, the South may rise again!

Now Lezlie might tell you that the cake was no "simple" task, but it sure was a pleasure to eat!

GOD SAYS
All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
II Timothy 3:16

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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.

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.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 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
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Mike Larson
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.

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.

St. Francis Equity

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