

Opinion

Solid companies are not so 'solid' anymore

matter what happens, they could depend on the uncertain. "blue chips" in their stock portfolios: you know, solid companies like AT&T, Chrysler, General

Only now, AT&T is gone, having dwindled away until one of it's "Baby Bell" offspring bought it up. Chrysler and GM, both in bank-

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 specualone 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 year. big pickups again, Ford (unburdened by bankruptcy and federal "aid") should be in a good position to make them – and make a lot of mon-

big vehicles, though. If you want a truck, you can expect a big discount.

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 them.

Financial advisors used to tell widows that, no big firm. How that will help either recover is

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 conlators with no real interest in the companies, let tracts 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

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

Why would they close profitable dealers, Right now, the industry is sitting on plenty of dealers who were moving cars for them?

Clearly, this is not something the government should be pushing. Why close dealerships that Americans have shown that they will drive 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 Con-



AS CONSTRUCTION WOES CONTINUE, BUILDERS SIMPLIFY PROCEDURES ...

News From the Past-

10 years ago - 1999

treasurer of the St. Francis Li- dreds of tiny newborn clothes ons Club, was presented with for Newborns in Need. There Cheyenne County has a new the International President's are used for tiny babies whose county agent. David Lott's first Certificate of Appreciation due mothers have little offer. to the fact that Mr. Werner has kept the club in contact with 1924, 75 years ago, live in St. 25 years ago - 1984 Lions Clubs International with Francis and at least one of them outstanding reports. He has also plans on attending the St. Frangiven many hours of service in cis Community High School wider bridge can be constructed local projects.

Marilyn Holzwarth in less uates are Ruby Harkins and Dr. Carl Werner, secretary and than six months has made hun- Mona Frick.

Two members of the class of June 21. Alumni Reunion. The two grad- on U.S. 36.

After almost nine months, day at the extension office was

Men are busy making a detour road west of town so a new and

Casey

McCormick

Casey's Comments gress should defend these dealers, not abandon scmccormick@nwkansas.com game, from its beginnings in the Word has come out that baseball

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

No other professional sport to Sammy Sosa. like baseball when it comes to numbers. Every aspect of the played with Jim Suchecki on the

19th century to today, is comparaslugger, Sammy Sosa, is the latest ble. That is part of what makes the steroid era deserve to be singled

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 baseballand the game will be cleaned up. reference.com. I wanted to see if Each player will have to rely on I could find a common bond behis own, God given talents once tween one of the all time greats to a modern day type: Ted Williams

Here's

1950 Boston Red Sox. Suchecki 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 Rang-

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

Hangin' With Marge **Alumni Reunions** Margaret Bucholtz

margeb@cityofstfrancis.net class reunions. I went as Kurt's spouse and because I am having rumbling of quiet voices, saying, knee problems I chose to sit down at a table. It was a great experience and one that I had not had before. avoid this would be — you are on the Friday night occasion. I am Usually I will stand by Kurt and the first person to the reunion. As sure most of you wonder why that enter into the conversations.

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 St. Francis just had their honor turn to someone they are talking with and the room whispers the "Do you know who that is?"

the next person, you don't know Just as I sat down, there was a walks through the door you would couple more spouses that came 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 any-

> door and introduced himself as he had never been back for a reunion

There was one who came in the

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

We have been to most of Kurt's I have decided that the way to honor years, but usually only go 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

Money spent needs to create jobs — Letter to the Editor — I want to make it clear that this

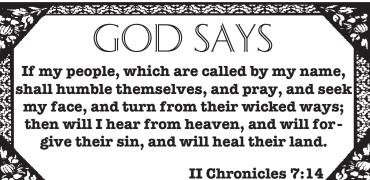
letter expresses my/our opinion and Development Corporation or it's board members.

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 will create jobs! The kind of jobs

not that of the Cheyenne County downtown area. I/we are 100 per- that retain and attract our youth, cent against that idea. Bird City has a few years ago. If there is a mil-MUST be spent on creating a facility, an enterprise, a business which

build our tax base, grow comfewer real jobs, fewer businesses merce. Bird City has one, ONE and more empty homes than it did business open after 7 p.m., ONE. That's all! JOBS, JOBS, JOBS....If lion dollars available to be spent, it we don't get JOBS, we won't need ANY streetlights.

Chuck and Diane Kribs, North of Bird City



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

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

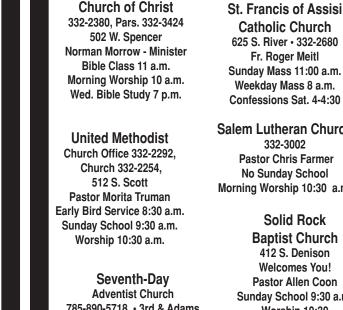
Subscriptions: One year \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscrip-ANSAS tions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/ FPO). POSTMASTER: Sendchange of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Nor'West Newspapers

8:30 a.m.- noon - 1:00-5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday $(785) 332-3162 \quad \text{Fax} - (785) 332-3001$ E-mail - sf.herald@nwkansas.com

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785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams **Pastor Jerry Nowack** Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45

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

Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 **Pastor Chris Farmer** No Sunday School Morning Worship 10:30 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 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:15 a.m.

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 **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 Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. **Communion 1st Sunday** of the Month



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6/23/09 7:17:21 PM

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