



Neither party wants to tackle antitrust issue

One glaring fault in our economy neither party seems willing to take on. Maybe there's too much corporate money out there.

Big business, as in too big to fail.

First the less-shaky banks were allowed to gobble up their less-fortunate brethren when the economy went south. Outfits like Bank of America then became "too big to fail," did they not?

There's more, though. With only three American automakers, they've long been considered "too big to fail."

Where was the antitrust division when that happened?

And airlines? We already have Delta, which was allowed to scoop up competing Northwest. Did we need an airline that big.

Now United has swallowed Continental whole, "so it can compete," and American wants to soak up U.S. Airways, itself a conglomeration of the America West (the dominant partner) under the name of a better-known corporate weakling.

Won't they all be "too big to fail"? Where was the Justice Department when all this was going on.

Yet you almost have to go back to the Nixon Administration in 1974, when a federal suit was filed to break up the AT&T telephone monopoly, and the Reagan Administration in 1984, when the breakup actually came down, to find a real antitrust policy.

Since then, it's been open season for big-time mergers. In the years since, Southwestern Bell, at first just one of a flock of Baby Bells pro-

duced by the breakup, has gobbled up three of its siblings and its former parent to become the new AT&T. Airlines, banks, other businesses have merged with little opposition.

Take railroads: today there are just seven "Class 1" long-haul carriers, where once there were more than 200. They are big, mostly efficient and mostly profitable, but what will happen when one threatens to go down?

The next time Delta goes into bankruptcy? It's not like it hasn't happened before, after all.

There's just no evidence that bigger is better. A strong economy can't depend on just a few big outfits, because the odds are, one or more of them eventually will fail.

Antitrust policy used to be based on the idea that bigger businesses could control markets and manipulate prices. That's still a valid concern, but history suggests we've moved way beyond that issue.

Today, bigness threatens the entire economy. You'd think we would have learned that lesson, but there's just no evidence anyone cares about anything except a continued flow of big-business contributions to their campaigns.

We will rue the day we let this happen. Markets dominated by a few big firms lose their natural ability to regulate themselves.

It's time to start breaking up the "too-big" businesses and letting the forces of nature and economics operate as intended. Let firms compete, let those that make mistakes fail, let new competitors spring up.

But don't let our prosperity depend on a few far-from-stable corporations. — Steve Haynes



Woman thinks prayers answered

Letter to the Editor:

People prayed about the election and God answered their prayers with the re-election of President Obama. Only people who listen to Fox lies would have believed that Romney had a chance of winning. Not only did the president win the electoral college but also the popular vote. I guess most Americans wised up to Fox lies.

Letters to the Editor

When are Rush Limbaugh, Fox lies and people who listen to them realize they are too far to the right for most of the country. The American people want taxes raised on the rich and they want the Republicans to work with the President to get the economy growing and creating jobs. Also,

when the American people learn how the Affordable Care Act will benefit them, they don't want it repealed.

May God bless our nation and thank God there is a Christian in the White House.

Diana Brunswick Bosso Arnold, Mo

County treasurer asks community for patience and understanding

Letter to the Editor:

When the tax statements were printed the first year after we converted to our new tax software, it printed "To pay: Dolores Jenik, P.O. Box 687, St Francis, KS 67756." This is the Treasurer's office address. I didn't care for this and asked the vendor to change it so that it would read "To pay: Cheyenne County Treasurer." This is how it was printed the second year.

This year's tax statement was expected to be the same, and didn't think to check this part. However, it went back to the way the first year's statements printed. This wasn't caught until after the out-of-county statements had been mailed, all but a few of the St Francis statements were stuffed and postmarked.

If you haven't written your check, I ask that you make it out to the Cheyenne County Treasurer. I apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may cause.

If you have already sent your tax payment and made it out to Dolores Jenik, rest assured, the payment will be or has been posted to your taxes, as before.

As most are aware, I am work-

ing in the office by myself and I do appreciate the patience and understanding everyone has shown. I know it is very inconvenient and frustrating for all. I ask that you continue your patience and understanding for a little longer, in my process of hiring new help. They will need to go through training. Taxes shouldn't take them long, but on the Motor Vehicle and

Driver's License side, they will have to go through some mandatory training through the state.

I am placing a lock box outside the door of my office; taxes may be placed in the box instead of waiting in line. If you want a receipt, mark your envelope as such, so one will be mailed to you.

Dolores Jenik Cheyenne County Treasurer

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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With the beginning of the "season of giving," it's good to see people who really mean it.

A great example of someone who gives above and beyond is Gary Sinise. Using the character that the actor is best known for, Sinise has found a way to show his appreciation for America's fighting men and women.

In the 1994 film Forrest Gump,

he played the roll of Lt. Dan. Besides acting he also is a pretty decent bass guitar player and has attracted other talented musicians and singers to form the Lt. Dan Band.

This group does play in concert halls around the country, but about 75 percent of their performances are for U.S.O., charities and benefits. The band entertains soldiers

and uses its music to say "thank you" both at home and abroad.

While others claim to give back and make token efforts, Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band goes that extra mile to show they truly care.

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



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Christmas Decorations

The other day I got excited about Christmas decorating. Usually I don't want to start and lately I haven't even wanted to decorate because you always have to take it down.

I was bored that day and was looking on line seeing what other people were creating for the holidays. I found a couple of things that I thought I might be able to do. I showed them to Kurt and he thought it looked like something he might like to do. I printed off the directions and we set out finding the supplies we would need.

The directions said it would cost about \$20.00 and take about two hours to make. I explained to Kurt that we already had the stuff to make it so all we would be out is our time. What is two hours out of your day?

The project is five snowflakes to hang off of your trees. Since we don't have any big trees I suggested that we use the wooden fence.

We hurried up that very day and started in. When the day was over we didn't even have one snowflake done. Both of us had read the direction at least 50 times. At last we dragged ourselves back to the house and wondered what had happened.

The next day we are back at it. That is after Kurt had gone to town to get more paint, wood, washers and screws. By the end of that day we had our first one done. We had only had to tear it apart twice that day and finally the finished snowflake was lit up and we could see what we were trying to achieve.

Today, as we went over to work on some more, Kurt said, "I had thought maybe we would make

some for each of the kids, but I have changed my mind." I suggested that we stop at three instead of five but he insisted on five.

As for the two hours I haven't figured that out because we will be on our fourth day tomorrow. The \$20 is a laugh, we have went through five cans of spray paint, a bag of washer and screws, five boxes of 100 count. Christmas light bulb and several pieces of wood.

Sorry kids, no Christmas for you guys this year. We done wore ourselves out and spent all our saved Christmas money.

GOD SAYS

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all mallice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:31, 32

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Worship 10:30
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Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m.
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Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Communion 3rd Sunday

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www.sfccfamily.com
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Worship School 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

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202 N. College
Pastor Randy Nelson
Church 332-2928
Parsonage 332-2312
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Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday

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