

## Free market worked well to regulate supply, prices

Little noticed amidst the cries about higher fuel prices is the fact that the free market worked well to regulate supply and prices as Mother Nature delivered shock after shock to the system.

First was Hurricane Katrina, which shut down as much as 10 percent of the nation's refining capacity and much of the oil production in the Gulf of Mexico.

Then came Rita, spreading the damage west into Texas at a time when many of the Louisiana refineries were just coming back.

The two combined to push high gasoline prices to near-record levels. Pipelines serving the southeast were shut down, causing some shortages. Within days, though, everything was working well and the price headed back down.

The market really is a marvel. As Katrina hit, with rumors of shortages and higher prices, people rushed out to fill their tanks. The price shot up, discouraging hoarding, and people stopped buying.

Any dealer who thought he could get \$5 found out quickly that he was wrong. Any merchant who tried to hold prices down quickly ran out of gas.

Then the nation flexed its limbs and discovered that, though bruised and battered, it was whole. Prices started to decline.

Rita came with another blow, but people are used to the drill now. Prices have not jumped anywhere near Katrina levels.

Contrast this with the 1970s, when the government slapped price controls on fuel and suddenly,

no one could buy gasoline. Drivers had to line up at stations that often ran out of gas. Supply was precious. The country was in a panic, and we wound up with the 55 mph speed limit.

Price controls are never a good solution. They're inflexible and bound to create shortages. Government rationing is inefficient and prone to corruption.

Despite cries about prices and profiteering, the fact is, the market works. It responds quickly and with great flexibility.

As oil gets more scarce and demand continues to rise, we can count on the market to ration the supply without intervention. There is no grand conspiracy to prosecute.

While the government has failed to push us toward alternative fuels, they're out there. When the price is right, industry will develop them — and we'll buy them.

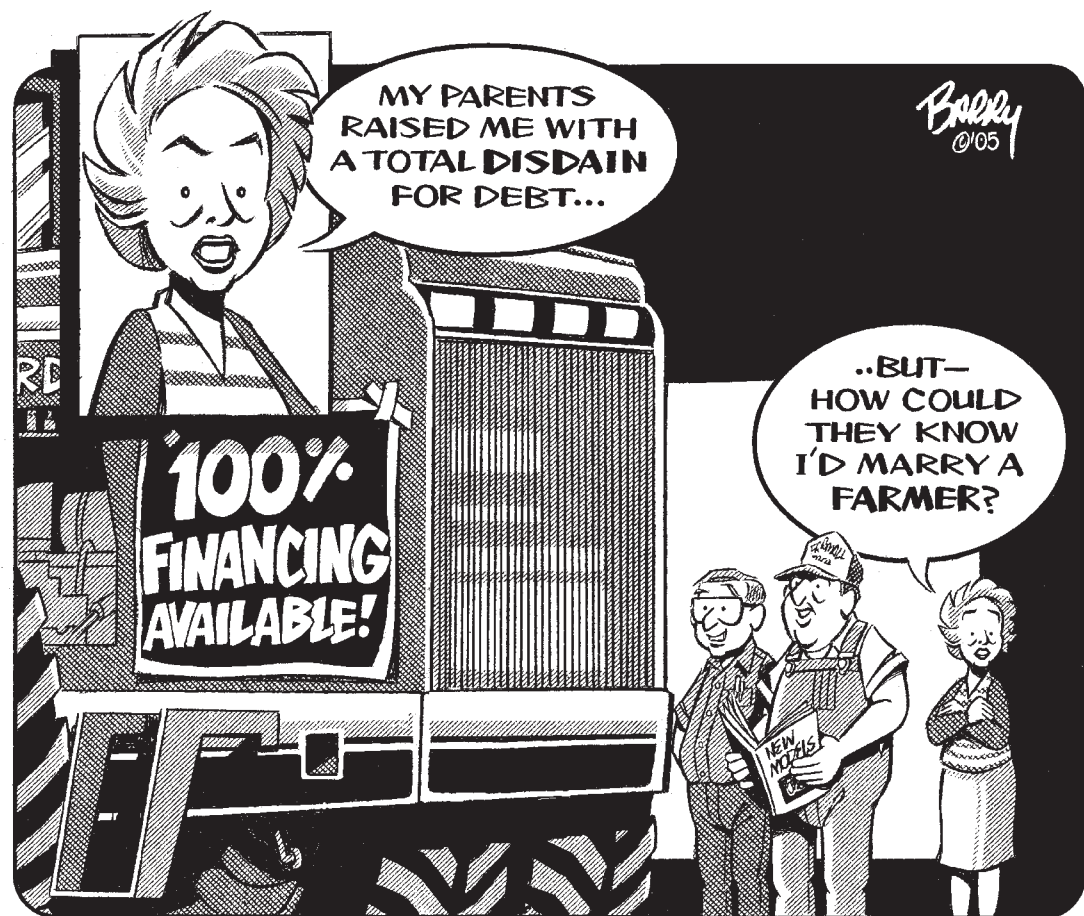
China and India are major drivers in the higher price of fuel. Their economies are awakening and demanding more oil.

It's not correct to say that we'll run out of oil. There'll always be some, but as supply goes down, the price will go up.

As that happens, we'll find alternatives. Society isn't going to give up the things we love: electricity, communications, entertainment, industry. We need not fear for the future.

The market is there to save us.

—Steve Haynes



## News From the Past

### 15 years ago - 1990

Featured guest star on Thursday evening at the Cheyenne County Fair is Clyde Foley Cummins, a talented country entertainer.

Thresher Princess Patty Pittman threw the first bundle in the antique thresher at the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show in Bird City.

Tobi Davis and Tina Poling of St. Francis are scheduled to participate in the Masonic Band at the East/West Shrine Bowl held in Lawrence.

The members of the Cheyenne County Amusement Authority include Karla Knorr, Bonnie Stuart, Vera Zwegardt, Carla Lampe, Noble Dorsch, Randy Weis, Pat Stuart, Rod Zwegardt, Rell Zimelman, Doug Ross, Kenny Knorr,

Shawn Alsup, Dennis Krien, Dalaina Alsup and Kathie Weis.

Nellie LeBow Burr was crowned the 1990 Thresher Queen.

The Grand Champion float at the Cheyenne County Fair was created by the St. Francis State Bank and Trust.

At a recent St. Francis City Council meeting, it was voted to purchase a radar gun for use by the city policemen.

1990 Fair Grand Champions include Brock Ketzner, steer and lamb; Joe Leibbrandt, market hog; Aaron Lindsten, gelding; Jolly Janes, EHU booth.

Cindy Westbrook Herst was crowned the 1990 Antique Auto Queen.

35 years ago - 1970 Miss Debbie Gorthy won top honors Friday at the Quarter Horse show during the Cheyenne County

Fair. Her performance in various classes of horsemanship was judged on her finesse and ability to control the horse.

School will be starting on Aug. 26. New windows have been installed in the Grade school in preparation for the new year.

School enrollment is down 50 this year in the St. Francis schools. The high school enrollment is 236, down 24 from a year ago. There are 55 seniors, 50 juniors, 71 sophomores and 60 freshmen.

Doug Cress of Bird City took top honors with his market hog at both the Cheyenne County Fair and the Tri-State Royal in Goodland.

Fifty boys reported for the first football practice. Head Coach is Ray Huffman and his assistants are Roger Lewis, Gary Nickal, Daryl Brumley and Ward Cassidy.

## Hangin' With Marge

### Germs

By Margaret Bucholtz



Every one of us has some kind of phobia that the next person thinks is weird. My mother had a thing about germs that I always found so amusing.

She didn't like to go out to restaurants to eat because maybe, just maybe, the dishwasher didn't get all the germs off the eating utensils. She wouldn't make a big deal out of it, but before she would take a drink of her water or coffee the rim would have to be wiped off with a napkin. After she would get that job done she would very quietly pick up her silverware, hold them under the table, so no one would see as she wiped them down very briskly with a clean napkin. Then she would eat and drink.

If the truth was known there were probably times that she would take a napkin and wipe off my silver-

ware, but I never caught her at it. Then again, maybe I never wanted to catch her having to do that.

She always enjoyed going to the fast food places because she was sure they always threw the plastic things away.

It didn't just stop with the eating utensils—it branched on to several more things. One of them was sleeping in motel rooms. I loved to stay in a motel room. I liked the excitement of a change of scenery and the fact everyone was together in the same room. I couldn't understand it until she told me.

For several years my dad spent a lot of time in the hospital in Colorado Springs and mom and I would stay together in a motel room. The first thing she always did was remove the bed spread, but I thought that was so it wouldn't get

dirty and she was doing it out of respect. She always took a blanket in the car and she would have me carry it in. Then she would use it on her bed. One day as we were getting ready for bed and she was getting her blanket all spread out neat, I said "Mom, if you get that cold at night why don't you just put the bedspread over you and you wouldn't have to bring so much?" Her answer was "Oh no, I never sleep with a motel bedspread, after all you don't know, someone could have died in this bed last night."

Believe me, it was a shock to hear that and now every time Kurt and I get a motel room as I walk through the door, I stop and ask him, "Do you think anyone died in this room?"

## This is the Place

By Carol Redding, Cheyenne County Development coordinator

October brings a full schedule of trainings offered by the Small Business Development Center. They include:

- Quickbooks (Hays) Oct. 5, 12, 19
- Successful Teambuilding (Hays) Oct. 18
- Supervisory Training (Hays) Oct. 18
- Small Business Tax Workshops

(Colby, Hays, Great Bend) Oct. 11-13

• Contractor Tax Workshops (Colby, Hays, Great Bend) Oct. 11-12-13

• Business Start-up Sessions (Colby, Hays, Great Bend) Oct. 5, 13, 14, 19

• Employer Roundtable-Saving w/Tax Credits (Hays) Oct. 12

• How to Get More Customers (Hays) Oct. 20

• Basics of Recordkeeping (Colby) Oct. 11

• Basics of Office Management (Colby) Oct. 26

• Ethics for Accountants (Great Bend, Hays) Oct. 19, 21

Complete descriptions, locations and registration information are available at the Cheyenne County Development Corporation, 107 W. Washington Street, or phone (785) 332-3508.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed honor roll: Mark Mahlberg, Wray, Colo.; Ron Roberts, Bird City; Liz Weber, St. Francis; Darrel Weber, Spring Hill, Fla.; Janice Clark, Claremore, Okla.; Dean Knapp, Bird City; Emily Walz, Lawrence; Irene Andrist, St. Francis; Kelly Gienger, St. Francis; Mike and Karen Cecil, Goodland.

**GOD SAYS**  
If I have told you earthly things,  
and ye believe not, how shall  
ye believe, if I tell you of  
heavenly things?  
John 3:12

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*Worship Warms the Heart*

**First Christian Church**  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Pastor Tony Christians  
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.  
Church Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

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

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Beryl Gibson  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**Living Water Fellowship Ministry**  
Pastors:  
Terry & Tiffany Glasco  
Downtown Bird City  
785-734-2363  
Sunday:  
Fellowship 9:30 a.m.  
Worship & Word 10 a.m.  
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday:  
Intercessory Meeting 7 p.m.  
Last Sunday evening of Month:  
Revival Service 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.

**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.,  
Wednesday prayer service, 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**St. Francis Community Church 332-3150 • 204 N. Quincy Street**  
Pastor: Richard Garcia  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Clough Valley Church of Hope 12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF**  
Jason & Abby Howard  
332-3152  
Starting July 23rd  
8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT

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