



## Other Viewpoints

### Economic research 'overly optimistic'

Economic researchers predict the Kansas job market will grow by 1.8 percent – more than 24,000 jobs – in the coming year, which sounds overly optimistic based on what has taken place statewide in recent months.

Consider that the Wichita aviation industry, one of the economic backbones of the state, has continued to shed jobs in 2012, while the Siemens plant here in Hutchinson announced last month that it will eliminate 146 positions. In addition, greeting card mogul Hallmark will close its Topeka plant in the coming year – a move that will eliminate 300 jobs.

Do you think it cashed in on this mass layoff trend with a sympathy card for people out of work?

All that said, it is hard to fathom how economic experts at Wichita State University are predicting that 24,175 jobs will be created this year in the Sunflower State.

The WSU Center for Economic Development and Business Research issued its annual report this week. There is good reason for skepticism. In 2008, the same group issued a rosy picture for the coming year just as the economy was beginning to show signs of pending doom. It eventually had to go back to the data to revise its projections.

This week's outlook, the Associated Press reported, does not take fully into account concerns that the U.S. economy could fall off a "fiscal cliff" at the end of the year. That is when tax increases and deep spending cuts will take effect unless Congress reaches a budget deal. A recession could follow.

The forecast also does not factor in automatic federal government spending cuts, which would require an across-the-board cut of 9 percent to most Pentagon programs and 8 percent in many domestic programs.

Those defense cuts would have a profound impact on Wichita's aviation-heavy economy.

The automatic cuts were mandated by the failure of last year's congressional deficit "supercommittee" to strike a budget deal. The process of automatic cuts is called sequestration, and the administration has little flexibility in how to distribute the cuts.

In other words, amid a very uncertain future – from a presidential election in six weeks to a strapped economy to the sequestration process – it is a near impossible task to accurately project the job market for the coming year.

Putting a positive spin on our predicament appears to be even more difficult an endeavor.

– The Hutchinson News, via the Associated Press

### Write us

The Colby Free Press encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of general interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Nor do we run form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality.

Before an election, letters (other than responses by a candidate) will not be published after the Thursday before the polls open.

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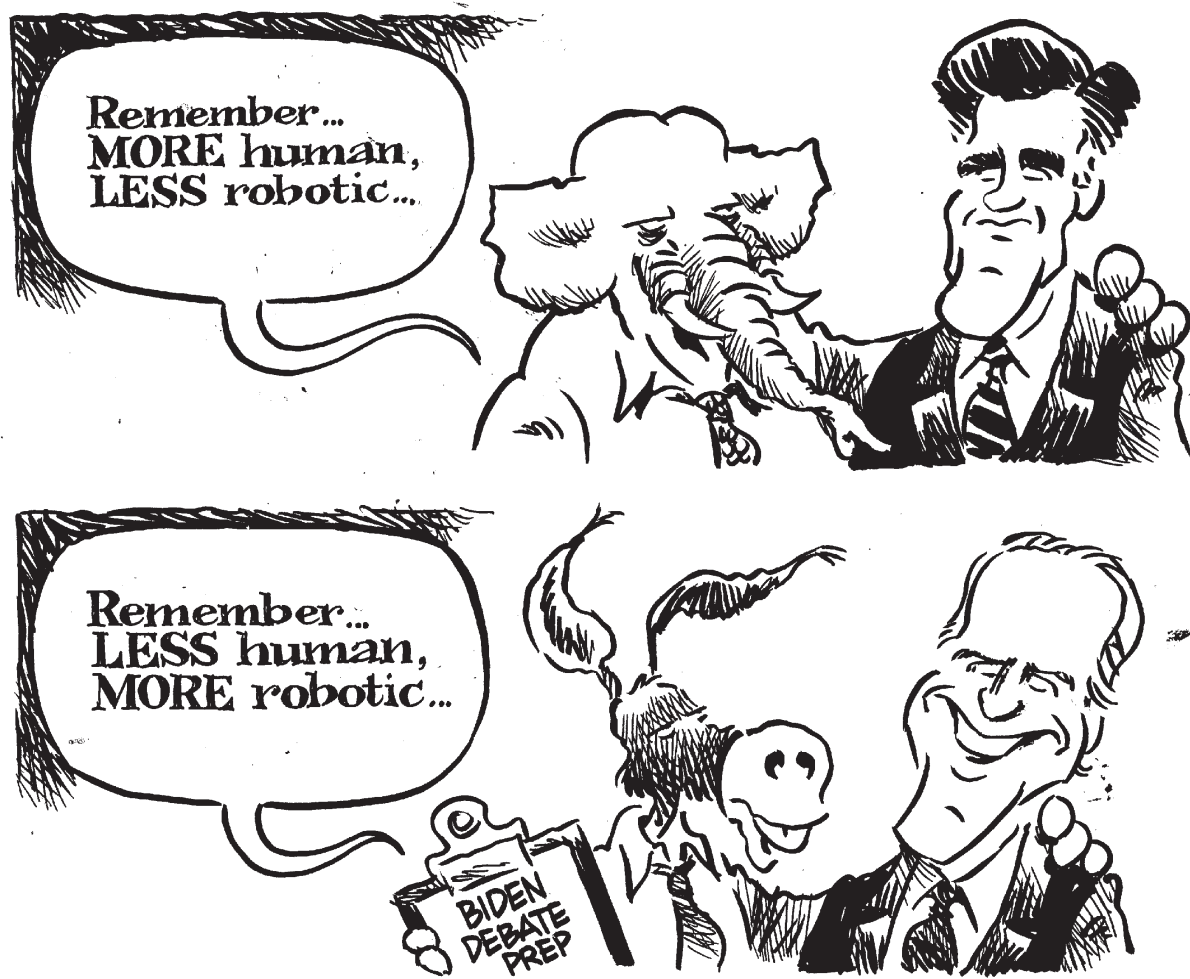
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### Cycle of violence too big to ignore

In large and small communities across our country, too many Americans find themselves placed in danger by the very people who are supposed to love and protect them.

Each year, more than 2 million women are victims of domestic violence across our country. In Kansas, an estimated one in 10 adult women will suffer from domestic abuse this year.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a reminder that we can help give a voice to the hopeless – to those who are often too afraid to speak out for themselves. Domestic violence is not just a problem for women; children and men are all too often victims of abuse. Throughout October, we should be especially mindful of these victims and renew our commitment to put an end to this cycle of violence.

Many Kansans may assume that domestic violence does not occur in their neighborhoods or among their friends. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Domestic violence does not discriminate by race, gender, age, education or social status. And four years ago, the citizens of Hays learned of the tragic death of a young woman from domestic violence.

I have spoken on the floor of both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives to share the story of Jana Lynne Mackey with my colleagues. Today, I'd like to share Jana's story with you. It bears repeating because it is a solemn reminder of the urgent need to put an end to this so-called "silent crime" that plagues hundreds of thousands of homes across our country.

Jana was born in 1982 in Harper and spent her childhood in Hays. She was an active member of 4-H, an athlete and a talented musician. After graduating from high school, Jana



#### U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

##### • Moran's Memo

completed a bachelor's degree, where she discovered her passion – advocating on behalf of others. She went on to pursue a law degree from the University of Kansas and fought for equality and social justice through her work with countless organizations, including volunteer work in Lawrence at the GaDuGi Safe-Center – a shelter that aids victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. But on July 3, 2008, at the young age of 25, Jana's own life was taken by domestic violence.

More than 1,100 people gathered together at Jana's memorial service in Lawrence to celebrate her life. After her death, Jana's parents, Curt and Christie Brungardt, started the "Eleven Hundred Torches" campaign to encourage 1,100 people to carry on Jana's torch by dedicating their lives to serving others. They reached their goal in one year, and today the Brungardts are focused on their non-profit organization, Jana's Campaign, Janascampaign.org, which is dedicated to stopping domestic and dating violence. Yet there is more work left to be done.

Throughout our country, an estimated one in four women will suffer abuse during her lifetime. Domestic violence brings fear, hopelessness and depression into the lives of every victim. We must not only work to end domestic violence, but also care for those who have become victims. Every citizen can find a way

to get involved and make a difference, whether by volunteering at a local shelter, making a donation to a local organization or speaking out when you become aware of domestic violence.

If you see signs of abuse in a relationship, let the victim know you care and are concerned about their safety. Many victims say fear, shame and embarrassment are powerful barriers to their seeking help. If you express your concern, it may help them to break their silence and seek the assistance they need.

And if you need help, please call the Kansas Crisis Hotline at (888) 363-2287 – a toll-free, 24-hour crisis hotline that links victims of domestic violence with crisis programs across the state. The hotline offers confidential support and can help with everything from crisis intervention to connecting you with community programs and women's shelters that can help victims re-establish their lives without violence.

The tragedy of Jana's death is a rallying cry, calling each of us to do what we can to make a difference in the lives of others. This October, and throughout the year, let us be mindful of the victims of domestic violence and let us be a torch to help break the cycle of violence and bring hope to those who suffer.

Jerry Moran of Hays is the junior U.S. senator from Kansas. His committee appointments include Appropriations; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Veterans Affairs; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and the Special Committee on Aging. To sign up for his weekly newsletter, go to moran.senate.gov.

### Local newspaper connects community

We can get our national news on cable television, catch the weather on local broadcast stations, listen to talk radio on the AM or FM dial and follow our favorite blogs on the Internet, but where do we turn for local information that directly impacts our daily lives? More often than not it is community newspapers.

Technology has transformed how we gather information in the 21st century. News cycles run 24/7, tablets and laptops are becoming smaller and smart phones keep getting smarter.

As a result, most traditional large newspapers are struggling to stay alive – they are more and more frequently printing only two to three times a week, personnel and content are shrinking like never before and more information is shifted to online editions.

Yet local community newspapers are thriving because they have persistently weathered the storm year in and year out to remain a fixture in our everyday lives. As our societies become more complex and diverse with growing numbers of ways to obtain information, the role of local newspapers in informing our communities becomes even more significant.

We count on them to regularly check in with the courts and police stations. They print announcements on births, deaths, engagements, marriages, anniversaries, church news, job openings, school information and service club endeavors.

They publish notices of local municipal meetings. They print tax increases, millage

### Other Opinions

#### • Mike Rogers U.S. Representative

initiatives, notices of changes in laws and property rezoning – all issues that most directly affect our pocketbooks by determining how our hard-earned tax dollars are spent at the local level and how our local officials are representing us.

They help run the local economic engine and provide a marketplace for the community. They offer local small businesses with an effective and affordable means of connecting with local consumers. They print sales at the supermarket, coupons for discounts at local stores, real estate listings and classifieds for everything from a used car to a neighbor's garage sale.

It's also personal. Communities feel a sense of ownership in their local newspaper, and the people that report the news are often our friends and neighbors down the street.

News aggregating websites such as Drudge Report and the major news blogs are great at offering up major national and international news and analysis, but they simply do not provide the information on issues that impact us

at the local level. It is especially true for the elderly and those with low incomes who often have less access to computers and transportation.

They normally only publish once a week, but community newspapers remain the one constant source of local information. In good times and in bad, they stay focused on us as a community.

Now more than ever, community newspapers are an important binding thread of our cities and towns.

Congressman Mike Rogers represents Michigan's Eighth Congressional District.

### Where to write, call

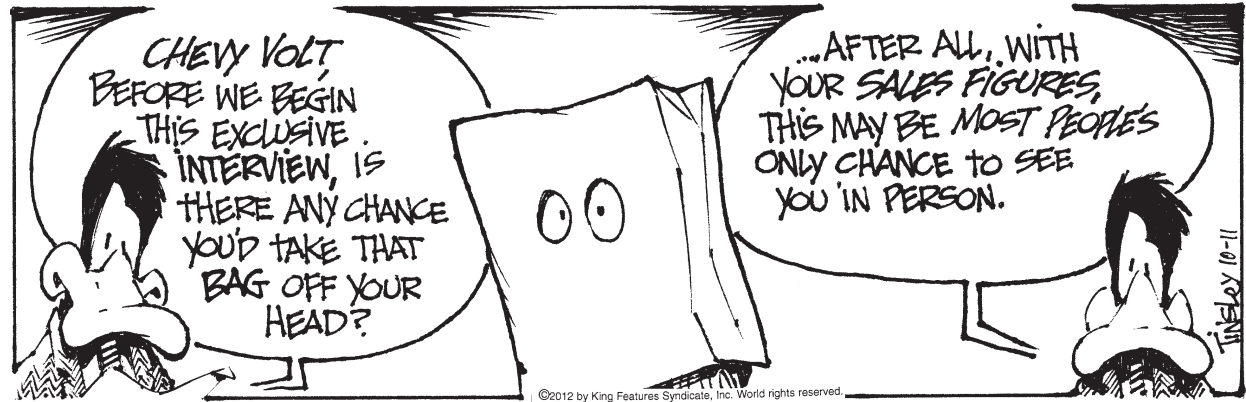
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### Mallard Fillmore

#### • Bruce Tinsley



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