

Prices don't seem to reflect actual value of things

I often wonder how people decide how much money things are worth.

Yes, I studied economics, and I know all about supply and demand, but I can't help thinking there are other influences.

For example, people often complain about gas prices. If we all boycotted and walked to work for awhile, would the prices come down? I doubt it. If they would, I think we could get enough people to join that boycott.

If we do it next month, those who made New Year's resolutions to exercise more can kill two birds with one stone.

What I've always wanted to know is: who decided bras are worth \$20 or more when most of the



sharon corcoran
• just for fun

shirts worn over them are cheaper? I've seen some pretty fancy bras in magazine ads, but when I looked at the price, I decided if I was going to pay that much, I would have to let everyone see it to be worth it. After all, you can't hide \$300 worth of lace, can you?

After Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" at the Super Bowl, someone made a comment suggesting she had breast implants.

I can't help but think if I had paid

thousands of dollars for new breasts, I would need to show them off to somebody. Why else spend the money?

I mean, if you spend hundreds or thousands of dollars on a necklace, everyone sees it and oohs and ahhs. Some you can tell are secretly jealous. But if you spend the money on something you cover with your shirt, where's the joy?

I've also wondered about the prices art sells for at auction. Granted, a one-of-a-kind painting by a famous artist is priceless, so it is difficult to set a standard. But some of the prices set have been astounding.

For example, "Irises" by Vincent Van Gogh brought \$49 million at an auction at Sotheby's in 1987; it has been suggested it would bring a lot more now.

With \$49 million, I could have a winter home, a summer home, a beach house for vacation, several cars, diamonds, a tremendous wardrobe and never have to work again.

For \$49 million I could be the crazy millionaire lady with 50 cats who never comes out of her house if I wanted. How much allergy medicine can you buy for \$49 million?

But someone decided one painting is worth that much. To make it worse, the artist talented enough to paint that masterpiece will never

see any of that money. Like all truly great artists, he's dead.

The prices of seeing a doctor, staying in the hospital and buying prescription drugs suggest that most people really value their health. But if that's true, why do so many risk their lives on plastic surgery and extreme sports?

That's like saying, "I'd die for thin thighs or a cheap thrill, but I'd pay a fortune to be healthy."

And isn't it funny the day after Christmas how the same box of candy that was worth \$10 two days before is now worth only \$5? It surely didn't taste twice as good two days before.

It makes me wonder why people don't decide to celebrate Christmas on the 27th, so they can have time

to shop at half price before the party. But then if everyone did it, the sales would have to be put off, supply and demand.

I often remind myself that things are only worth what someone is willing to pay for them, and the things that are really important can't be bought at any price.

Still, it's disappointing to do without nice things because I wasn't blessed with a wealthy family or a job that pays well. And it's discouraging to know there are people out there who can spend on one painting more than I will have to live on for my entire life.

It makes me wonder what homeless people think when someone drives by in a car that cost more than it would to buy them a house.

Forecast warned of cold week, 'White Christmas,' warm weekend

Well, it's less than 36 hours before Christmas Eve as I write this second to last column for 2004.

It has been very cold today, but it is just a forerunner of what is to come.

The television is predicting snow starting this evening and on Thursday. It will be cold again on Friday with a nice warm-up for Saturday and Sunday. I guess we'll just have to be patient and see how it all comes out.

Some of the people will be leaving tomorrow for travels to family gatherings out of town and out of state. Others have gotten in a day or so ago, since they have to leave for home on Sunday.

All that I know is I hope the roads



jan zwetzig
• goodland gazette

are in good shape for travel. There is nothing worse than trying to get somewhere and having the roads like an ice rink and visibility nonexistent. I've traveled that way a couple of times and don't want to do that again unless it's a matter of life or death to get somewhere.

We had a wedding in the family on the 20th. My niece's younger son, Matt, who's in the Army, mar-

ried a fellow soldier on Monday in San Diego. They had planned to marry in early spring when they thought they would both be through with their specialized training in communications/satellite work.

But the girl got her notice right after Thanksgiving that her unit was being shipped to Iraq right after the holidays. They didn't want to wait, so therefore the earlier date.

My feelings are confused as to whether that was the right thing to do or not. I guess we'll have to accept whatever happens. After the

latest mess over there, it leaves a sour taste in one's mouth. I pray it all turns out OK for everyone.

Jonah McClung got his Christmas present early in the week, a new puppy.

He is going to call her Buffy; she's a darling little cocker spaniel. I held her, and she snuggled up against me, but not until after a kiss on my chin from her.

It makes one wish they had a dog but not now. I get too attached to one, and it would be a chore to potty-train a puppy. I will just enjoy Jonah's.

I finally got my cards done and mailed. I have given out my presents to a few special friends and in return got theirs, mostly food. They

are wonderful gifts, and I thank the givers very much.

I hope they have a neat holiday. With this weather, the best place for me is staying home out of the cold and any possible bad sidewalks. My leg and knee have been more sore than usual, but I had been warned that would happen in extreme cold like is predicted.

My knee locked for a short time, but it corrected itself, and I have had no problems since that time. I hope not to, as it scared me to death and almost put me in tears. I hope 2005 turns out to be much better.

My friend stopped in to see me for a short visit. He too was having more aches than usual. Just take an aspirin, stay warm and off any side-

walks if they should get bad, was the advice of his doctor.

I got a good taste of the green bean casserole that was in the paper around Thanksgiving. If you kept the recipe, try it, as I just loved it and hope to make some after the holidays.

Usually, green bean casserole wasn't one of my favorites. This one sure hit the spot.

I really don't have too much news, as most everyone is busy, either getting ready to travel or awaiting company.

With nothing further, I'll just close for now and see what the last week of December brings. Until next time, have a safe and happy holiday.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

Nov. 29 — Ryan H. Hoagland, 19, Denver, \$204 for speeding.

Melissa D. Sellon, 26, Arvada, Colo., \$126 for speeding.

Alfred J. Pratt, 59, Lanham, Md., \$120 for over weight limit on wheels and axles.

Ricardo E. Gonzalez, 26, Glenwood Springs, Colo., \$159 for speeding.

Toni M. Rago, 18, Loveland, Colo., \$177 for speeding.

Lorenzo D. Butts, Pierson, Fla., \$235 for over weight limit on

wheels and axles.

Jeffrey L. Pratt, 44, Billings, Mont., \$124 for tractor trailer violation.

Elizabeth M. Elias, 23, Fort Collins, Colo., \$168 for speeding.

Carol T. Carson, 64, Memphis, Tenn., \$114 for speeding.

Erik L. Dargevics, Jr., 51, Steamboat Springs, Colo., \$204 for speeding.

Julie N. Gruber, 33, Loveland, Colo., \$138 for speeding and \$10 for no child restraint.

Eugene Diculescu, 72, Rolling Meadows, Ill., \$126 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Gerald L. Anderson, Jr., 39, Arvada, Colo., \$360 for driving under suspension, \$78 for speeding and \$20 for no child restraint.

Kevin E. Burke, 42, Breckenridge, Colo., \$138 for speeding.

Jeanne C. Vanhelden, 40, Tampa, Fla., \$126 for speeding.

Judith H. Stratton, 53, Cedar Hill, Texas, \$90 for speeding.

Ronald C. Windhorst, 37, Tarpon Springs, Fla., \$92 for over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Bernadette A. Barsboom, 31, Highland Ranch, Colo., \$186 for speeding.

Fausto Cambizaca, 50, Detroit, Mich., \$144 for speeding.

Thomas C. Reno, 38, Colorado Springs, \$126 for speeding.

Maria L. Aguilera, 39, Liberal, \$80 for no child restraint.

Gerald E. Compeau, Jr., 40, Hampstead, N.C., \$120 for speeding.

Udaykumar Habbu, 35, Houston, Texas, \$168 for speeding.

John M. Hageland, 38, Carbondale, Colo., \$150 for speeding.

Vincent G. Johnson, 48, Kansas City, Mo., \$126 for speeding.

Nov. 30 — Michael D. Egner, 40, Colby, \$120 for tractor trailer violations and \$36 for improper parking.

Sunny S. Vargas, 27, Colorado Springs, Colo., \$255 for speeding and \$60 for no license.

Dec. 1 — Wayne E. Buchannan, 51, Burlington, Colo., \$138 for speeding.

Douglas F. Adams, 51, Colorado Springs, Colo., \$132 for speeding.

Beverly A. Goering, 59, Fort Collins, Colo., \$126 for speeding.

Kathleen M. Allen, 56, Topeka, \$132 for speeding.

Nicholas J. Foley, 18, North Glenn, Colo., \$204 for speeding.

Dec. 2 — Jordan A. Crone, 33, Vickery, Ohio, \$132 for speeding.

Robert J. Cohen, 42, Lakewood, Colo., \$186 for speeding.

McKinley D. Knox, 45, Wichita, \$120 for improper driving.

Jason R. Schmidt, 34, Parker, Colo., \$177 for speeding.

Joyce K. Thorp, 58, Oklahoma City, \$168 for speeding.

Derrick A. Dixon, 21, Ranch Station, Ca., \$159 for speeding.

David A. Mock, 22, Clifton, Colo., \$132 for speeding.

Dec. 3 — Abel Gutierrez, 20, Kanorado, \$300 for no liability and \$195 for speeding.

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