

Tell it to the Chieftain

ECONOMICS

Outspending our future

Inflation-adjusted federal tax revenues hit a record \$1.2 trillion in the first five months of fiscal year 2015, but the federal government still ran a \$386.6 billion deficit during that time, according to the latest Monthly Treasury Statement.

In terms the little guy can understand, that would be like you making \$2,000 a month and spending \$2,652 every month. How long do you suppose you could get by with that?

We have been out \$146.8 billion in interest in just the first five months of fiscal year 2015. That's an average of \$972.5 million per day. We sure could use that nearly billion dollars a day for better things, and since we are borrowing more every day,

that interest just gets higher every day.

What are we doing to our future generations? No wonder so many young people don't respect us — we are spending

them into a lifetime of servitude. We are taking all their initiative away so many are turning to crime and drugs.

We need to spend more time thinking about our country and less time thinking about ourselves.

If you think times are hard now, you ain't seen nothing yet. And you better believe things are not anywhere near as rosy as the major media try to make you think.

Betty Stone
La Junta

“No wonder so many young people don't respect us — we are spending them into a lifetime of servitude. We are taking all their initiative away.”

POVERTY

Inequitable practices

What's going on with our economy? It seems as if there is no relief for the poor and the families who struggle to make a decent living on a limited income. It's a fact the rich get richer while the poor get poorer.

Case in point: According to Bankrate.com, most financial institutions on average will charge about 4.9 percent for an auto loan, if you have good credit. On the other hand, if you happen to be one of the unfortunate parties who is struggling to raise a family and who, through no fault of your own, has a less desirable credit rating you can be charged up to 18.9 percent for an auto loan, according to Edmunds.com.

Is our society being penal-

ized for being poor? Are banks and other financial institutions taking advantage of the less fortunate population that has no other recourse but to accept these ridiculous terms in order to buy a vehicle that every family needs.

Has greed taken over our financial institutions, and are the poor paying the price for their unfortunate circumstances? Regardless, there should be more equitable guidelines for auto loans and other credit liabilities.

Under these present conditions, how do we expect for these families to overcome poverty? There must be a better way.

Robert J. Alvarado
Pueblo

THE PRESIDENCY

Beyond the surface

I think it is time for the true patriots of our beloved United States of America to become informed about what is happening to this country. Make it your business to find out by not listening to the lies and word-parsing of President Barack Obama.

He is not the “Mr. Cool” you think he is. I believe that he is petty, vindictive and dangerous.

He is playing patty cake with Iran, which is the largest pro-

ducer of terrorism in the world. And apparently he plans to reach this agreement without Congress or anyone else.

How many more times will he overstep his authority before the Supreme Court stops him? Are they intimidated by him?

Be afraid. Be very afraid. And pray for our country to survive this president before it is too late.

Margaret Fisher
Pueblo

COMMUNITY

The true West Side

Recently, I had the wonderful misfortune of having my motorcycle break down on the corner of Lambert and 14th Street.

I knew I was unprepared and tool-less, so I laid down in the middle of the street to see if I would draw some attention to myself. It didn't work.

However, after about 10 minutes, a woman standing in her yard talking with her neighbor said she would watch my bike until I got what I needed for repairs. She allowed me to push the bike to her driveway.

I got down on the ground after moving my bike to assess the damage, and — to my surprise — another biker came riding by to see if I needed assistance. That rider got down on the ground too, to check out the situation.

Pretty soon another neighborhood biker walked over to see what was going on.

Suffice it to say, I was totally overwhelmed with this outpouring of community support, and soon I was on the

road again. The man who helped me offered to follow me home to make sure I got there safely.

I thought I was in Sturgis, but it was the kind and concerned people on Pueblo's original West Side — just over the viaduct — who came to my rescue.

I'll never forget them and will somehow reciprocate when I can, in some small way.

Oh, and by the way, did you know that the word “brother” came up a dozen times during my time of need? You rock West Side.
Sil Arteaga
Pueblo

WE WELCOME LETTERS

• **By mail:** Send to Letters to the Editor, Pueblo Chieftain, P.O. Box 36, Pueblo, CO 81002.

• **By e-mail:** tellit@chieftain.com

All letters must not exceed 300 words and must include the author's full name, address and telephone number for authentication. No anonymous letters will be published. The Pueblo Chieftain reserves the right to edit letters to length, taste and clarity.

WIND FARM

Idea deserves consumer support

I was quite surprised to find that the Colorado Public Utilities Commission had denied Black Hills Energy's request for 60 megawatts (MW) of wind energy to meet their renewable needs (“Black Hills, critics agree on wind farm proposal,” March 25). This is surprising because the Office of Consumer Counsel, Black Hills and others were in agreement that wind is the least expensive long-term solution for ratepayers. What happened?

Black Hills recommended 60 MW of wind as “the best choice for cost, (and) the company argues that its model demonstrates that acquiring Portfolio 3 (60 MW wind) and the associated Renewable Energy Credits will have a smaller impact on the Renewable Energy Standard Adjustment deferred account than acquiring standalone

RECs.”

The Office of Consumer Counsel, the body that advises the PUC, said they concur with Black Hills.

“OCC recommends that the commission directs Black Hills to acquire the lowest cost wind bid.”

But an earlier decision by the PUC required us to cough up \$70 million for a new 40 MW natural gas peaking plant that will be used infrequently.

Both of these questionable decisions are inappropriate actions that have us paying more in both the short term — the new gas plant — and long term — no new wind. Ratepayers deserve a long-term break and this wind proposal is the best long-term solution.

Black Hills, the Office Of Consumer Counsel and former critics agree, but PUC

“Ratepayers deserve a long-term break, and this wind proposal is the best long-term solution.”

doesn't. Why not?

Ask them yourself and ask for a re-hearing by sending a letter or comment to the PUC at: (800) 888-0170, via the PUC email, dora_puc_website@state.co.us. or at the main fax line of (303) 894-2065.

Also, we should thank Black Hills for their excellent recommendation. Let's make it happen.

Tom Corlett
Pueblo

SUPERFUND SITE

Setting the record straight

As we all know, Pueblo has a Superfund site. However, several key facts are being ignored.

The biggest fact is that Bessemer is part of the Superfund site. More significantly, there are more homes in the EPA's area of interest in Bessemer than in Eilers. Yes, the smelter was in Eilers, but the Superfund potentially is going to affect a lot more homes in Bessemer.

Other facts that are being ignored are that the EPA only has money secured for the testing and sampling of yards and home interiors. They have no money se-

cured to clean up the yards of the properties that they determine to be contaminated. Those funds must be approved by Congress in its annual budget.

We found out at the March 10 EPA Community Advisory Group meeting that the EPA will not start sampling yards until late spring or early summer. A safe guess is that their projected start date will be some time in July.

By the EPA's own admission, the first go-around for sampling and testing is anticipated to be at least three years. Once this process is completed, they will

then characterize the site to determine what level of lead and arsenic contamination is determined to be hazardous to our health and which yards they will clean up.

So, we are not going to know for at least three years — and maybe four — if our yard that tested at 350 ppm of lead is dangerous to our health and worthy of clean up.

Hang on Bessemer, because this ugly scenario is going to get a lot uglier. Welcome to the party!

David R.G. Webb
Pueblo

SHERIFFS' LAWSUITS

Demonstrating restraint, judgment

I'm proud of and pleased with Sheriff Kirk Taylor for not joining the gun lobbyist lawsuit and, now, the lawsuit to undo the peoples' vote regarding legalized recreational marijuana.

His level-headed, unassuming approach to his job is reassuring. The sheriffs who are whining, discontented and lawsuit obsessed are arrogantly attempting to go about opposing and re-writing law. They should be ashamed.

In the meantime, Pueblo County's sheriff seems bent on doing the job for which he was elected: enforcing the laws in a professional manner regardless of his personal opinions.

Thank you, Sheriff Kirk Taylor, for showing restraint and sound judgment by not jumping on the whining bandwagon.

Sheriffs are elected to enforce the law, not make laws or cherry-pick which laws they feel are essential.

“Pueblo County's sheriff seems bent on doing the job for which he was elected: enforcing the laws in a professional manner regardless of his personal opinions.”

Tami McDowell
Pueblo

UPPER ARKANSAS RIVER

Your voice on river issues

Recently, the Arkansas River Headwaters Recreation Area celebrated its 25th anniversary. By teaming up to form the AHRA, the Bureau of Land Management and Colorado Parks and Wildlife have successfully managed the Arkansas River.

In an effort to maintain positive relationships with the communities along this 120-mile stretch of river, the AHRA has established The Citizen's Task Force. The committee is comprised of two representatives from the following user groups: anglers, private boaters, commercial boaters, environmental interests, water interests,

the community/government and riverfront property owners. Rob Ferris and I are your Riverfront Property Owner representatives.

The task force has been functioning since 1990 as an advisory group to the AHRA. We give recommendations to the AHRA on management, growth and development issues throughout the recreation area and Upper Arkansas Valley, while providing an open communication link to parties affected by management decisions.

We are grateful for this opportunity to volunteer on behalf of the landowners. If you are interested, we en-

courage you to do so as well. At this time, our committee is reviewing the River Management Plan.

If you own property along the river and have any concerns to bring up, please contact Rob if you live north of Nathrop, or Wendy if you live in Salida or Fremont County. We will gladly represent your voice.

By the way, the next meeting is 9:30 a.m. April 8 at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds. It is open to the public.

Rob Ferris
Wendy Rombold
RE/MAX
Salida

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

‘Common-sense humane response’

What happens to children who survive an abortion in Colorado?

On March 3, House Bill 15-1112 was considered in the Public Health Care and Human Services Committee. Known as the Born Alive Infant Protection Act, the bill would have required proper medical treatment — ordinary treatment — the same treatment as a wanted baby would receive. Presently in our state, these living infants are subject to infanticide by neglect.

Thirty states now have bills similar to BAIPA. I was confident that Colorado would be added as the 31st. It is incredible that such bills are even necessary in our supposedly civilized society.

I know that the Democratic Party is committed to a woman's access to abortion, but this bill dealt with living children with beating hearts who are now completely separate from the mother.

Oh, I thought that possibly one or two zealots might oppose the measure, but it

was a common-sense, humane response to an atrocity that should not be occurring. And I would not have been surprised if the bill passed unanimously.

I was wrong. The bill was killed in committee, strictly along party lines. Six Republicans voted for it and seven Democrats voted against it.

I could hardly believe that not even one Democrat would choose to protect these babies.

Eleanor Boyd
Pueblo