

Letters to the Editor: Monday, April 14, 2009

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More than enough

The passing of U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy brought to mind the need for term limits. Forty-seven years in the Senate is way too long. No one should serve more than 12 years. If they're any good, they can go back into the private sector and make a good living. Most people who have been in government for any length of time have amassed a rather nice nest egg for their retirement. They should serve for a reasonable salary but get no retirement. After 12 years, they'd have to live under the rules they created. Twelve years is more than enough — two terms for the senators. We do not need professional politicians. That isn't what made this country great.

Lot F. Taylor, Woodward

The unemployment blues

The Electoral College vote last year favored Barack Obama over John McCain. Obama needed 270 electoral votes to win and got 364. Comparing the red states lost to blue states in 2008 vs. 2004, the margin was 107 electoral votes. Had the Republicans been able to hold the states they won in 2004, the vote would have been 281 electoral votes for red states and 257 for blue states. McCain would have won. It didn't happen that way, but what's interesting is the states that changed to blue and the increase in unemployment from December 2007 to July 2009.

For Colorado, the unemployment increase was 90 percent. For New Mexico, 49 percent; Florida, 129 percent; Iowa, 85 percent; Indiana, 144 percent; Ohio, 100 percent, Virginia, 112 percent; and North Carolina, 120 percent. Unemployment increased by 80 percent in the red states of Oklahoma and Texas. Granted, the recession affected all states, but only New Mexico (with its heavy state and federal employment) beat the red state baseline.

Tom Davis, Edmond

Supply and demand

Health care prices are determined by supply and demand. If you hold supply constant and increase demand, prices will go up. Some of the factors that increase demand are defensive medicine, illegal immigration, a third party payment system and an aging population. Therefore, to vilify physicians, insurance companies or even inflation is specious.

Alan Reynolds, a senior fellow with the Cato Institute, wrote of another factor that increases demand in the Sept. 7 edition of *Forbes*: runaway federal spending.

"Government is paying for a larger quantity of medical bills ... You can see the bloating influence of government by looking at medical goods and services that are almost never financed by 'free' government money: dental care, over-the-counter drugs, hearing aids and eye glasses (I might add plastic surgery). In such cases nobody frets about inadequate competition, poor service or 'runaway inflation.'"

Solutions should involve increasing supply and decreasing demand — less government, not more.

Philip G. Bowersox, Oklahoma City

The 'miracle' document

Thursday marks the 222nd anniversary of the signing of the Constitution by Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and 35 other exceptional visionaries. The Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 and the document that it produced has often been referred to as a "miracle." An incredible document such as our Constitution at any time in world history would have been a miracle due to formidable pushback by those who constantly sought to dominate, rather than liberate, "their" subjects.

The Constitution had to be ratified by nine of the 13 states and the necessary ratification occurred in June of 1788. George Washington and John Adams, having been duly elected under our Constitution, became president and vice president, respectively, on March 4, 1789.

Critical support for the creation of the United States came from Founding Mothers like Martha Dandridge Custis Washington, Abigail Adams née Smith and Dolley Payne Todd Madison.

Our fantastic form of self-government is the oldest in existence. The people continue to enjoy "the Blessings of Liberty" that our Founding Fathers (and Mothers) so brilliantly, valiantly and constitutionally secured for themselves and their posterity.

Robert and Retha Nance, Wheatland



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**Grandparents Day:
Friday, September 11,**

View photos from
Grandparents Day on Friday,
September 11, 2009

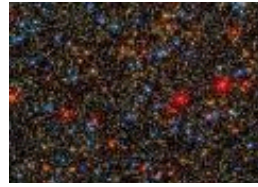
6 photos



Cleveland County Fair

Fair features goat roping,
farm animal petting area and
other events on the opening
day.

7 photos



**Hubble Space
Telescope photos:**

View photos taken by the
refurbished Hubble Space
Telescope.

9 photos