

Governor's incentive to lure new residents

Gov. Sam Brownback's initiative to lure people to rural Kansas counties by allowing them to skip paying state income tax for five years is an interesting idea, to say the least.

We hope it works. We fear it won't do much, because the program is limited to out-of-state residents. We believe the people most likely to move to rural areas are Kansans with ties to rural areas who might want to move "home."

The incentives in the governor's program, now passed by both the House and Senate and awaiting his signature, won't apply to those people. If they want to move to rural counties, they'll still have to pay income taxes. The state won't help pay off their student loans.

And frankly, we think the state should include them in this plan. There is little to lose, and potentially, a lot to gain.

If someone living in Wichita or suburban Kansas City, say, decides to move back here, the state could stand to lose several thousand dollars in income taxes. That might smart a little, but only for five years.

After that the state would benefit from having more taxpayers in rural counties instead of less. Plus, it'd have saved the cost of building more highways and providing more services in urban areas.

It'd be years before enough people moved out to rural counties to require more of these "infrastructure" expenditures. Even if everyone took advantage of a provision where the state and local governments would split the cost of paying down these "settlers'" college loans, the state would hardly notice.

As written, the bill is expected to help rural towns recruit professionals such as doctors, dentists, lawyers and even teachers, many of whom graduate with expensive student loans to pay. That alone could be powerful, and we fully support the bill as passed by the Legislature.

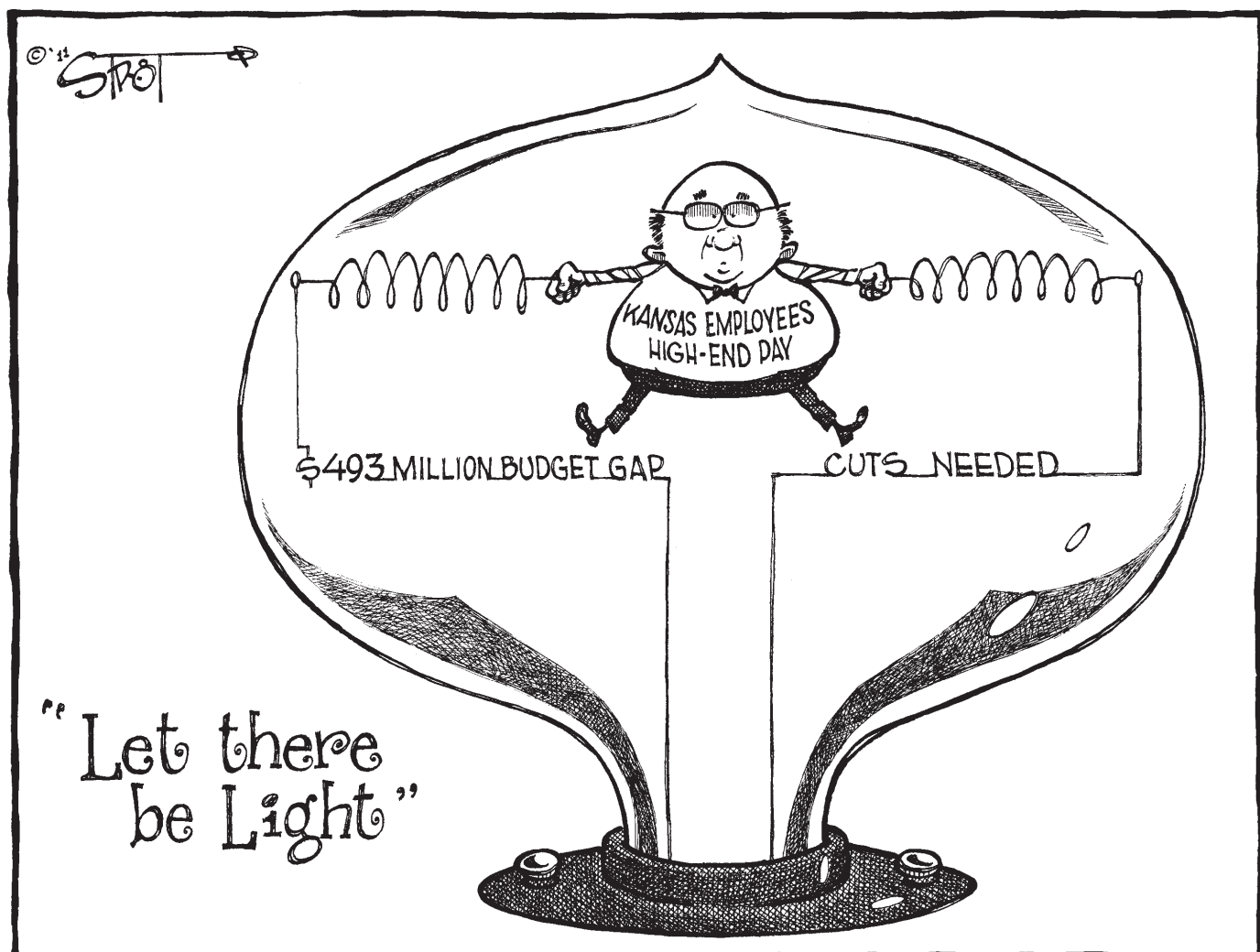
But if we are talking about reversing a century of population decline in rural Kansas, we need to think big. We are going to need a lot of people. And Kansans are the most likely to move out here.

Many either grew up in rural Kansas, or their parents did. Many still have relatives, land or business interests in rural areas. Others know people who live out here, or come to rural Kansas to fish or hunt or look for antiques.

These people, the ones with ties here, are the most likely to help us reverse the population decline. And that is what everyone says needs to happen.

So let's open up this program to Kansas people, and make it work.

— Steve Haynes



The gift of a meal cooked with love

Two of the three daughters being teachers and/or in school, were home for spring break. Their father looked forward to spring break more than either of them. Having them home means extra labor.

I had my own ideas of projects they could help with but I only got them for a couple of hours. However I did get a wonderful gift from Kate. Before coming home she called and offered to cook a meal.

Kate is an adventuresome cook. She once tried meatless meatloaf. I'm with Dillon, our hired man, on that one. He says, "Doesn't that defeat the purpose of MEAT loaf???"

She called for advice when she was shopping for the meatless meatloaf. "Where would the chutney be?" How would I know? I've never had chutney. However, somewhere in my vast brain file of useless information I somehow know, but never have an occasion to use, I had an idea it might be with the jelly.

Initially, she could not find it and had me looking up a recipe on line so she could make her own. I told you she is adventuresome! She did finally find some, it was with the jelly.

I am flattered when my children want my advice. Patricia calls all the time. Menus at her house are as strange as they are at Kate's, only in a different way. They don't eat carbs. When Patricia calls for advice about meatloaf, meat is the featured ingredient.

Patricia currently works nights and Craig has to be at work at 4:00 a.m. Their schedules are a mess so I'm not certain how much she cooks. Last time she called about a recipe she said Craig wanted to move closer to us because he had the idea I might cook for them. Boy,

This Too Shall Pass

Nancy Hagman



does he know how to get in good with his mother-in-law!

I pointed out that might be a fine idea in theory but I my menus usually contain carbs.

My dad indoctrinated me. "We raise wheat, we have to eat bread!"

Kate ran a couple of ideas by me for the meal she promised to cook during spring break. One was curry. I'm not sure I've ever had curry, but I know how it smells. It's not a smell that makes my mouth water.

Last summer, the hubby and I happened on a little bakery and restaurant in Silver Plume, Colorado while waiting to ride the train to Georgetown. The place met the mouth watering test! The cook gave us each a little cinnamon knot fresh from the oven. We decided right then to go back for lunch.

The specials for the day were quiche and curry and some sort of sandwich. We discussed the entrees before returning. If I were to rate the family on how adventuresome they are on trying new foods, I'd give Kate a 10 and the hubby a minus five. So I was shocked when he ordered curry. As the waitress (also the cook) walked away, I asked him why he ordered curry. He said, "What? It's eggs, right?" No dear, that would be the quiche. But what is it they say? "Real men don't eat quiche!"

He did not call her back and change the

order. The cook/waitress visited with us as we ate. She thought maybe the curry was a bit much that particular day. The hubby professed to enjoy it. It helped greatly that she had the most fabulous pie ala mode either of us had ever tasted for dessert. Mine was cherry, his apple.

The hubby said, "I never would have believed anyone could make a better apple pie than my mother." That is a high compliment. His mother makes an excellent apple pie. It's good the pie was so tasty because we would have had buyer's remorse when we got the bill if it had not.

I wasn't sure if the hubby really wanted curry again. Besides making a good apple pie, his mother raised him to have good manners. He doesn't always say if he doesn't like something. So we ended up having curry the night Kate cooked. It had carrots, onions, chicken, broth, peanut butter and, or course, curry powder. What a combination---it was good though I'm still not crazy about the smell.

Elizabeth will try about anything food wise. She likes calamari (that's squid). I asked her why she sometimes eats such weird stuff. She claims it is because she had been a broke college student so much of her life. If anyone offers her free food she eats it. I don't know who gave her calamari.

Elizabeth is an excellent cookie baker. This is good news for me. I don't have to make cookies for the holidays anymore. She is also easy to cook for. Her favorite meal during spring break? Pancakes! Somehow I have a feeling her brother-in-law will not be asking her to be his personal chef. But her grandpa would be proud.

Thoughts of impeachment

Once again the word "impeach" is being bantered about. Thanks to Dennis Kucinich, it is truly a bipartisan call. Whether it is the right call is a matter of opinion. It stems from President Obama's choice to join with the U.N. Security Council's decision to stop the bloodshed in Libya. I dislike the use of the word impeach although it makes more sense to use it over something like this than sexual actions and cover-up (no pun) lies. Clinton's activities wouldn't win him "husband of the year award" and probably not "best friend forever", but not sure it constituted "high crimes and misdemeanors".

Impeachment should be considered when an action threatens our national security or our democracy. Obama's usual academic analysis was waylaid by national security advisor interpretations. I feel, however, there was good reason to seek congressional approval and certainly time. Gadhafi initiated the bloodshed of his fellow countrymen weeks ago. Although I abhor military action of almost any kind, this included, I am encouraged we partnered with strong allies through the United Nations.

The decision to undertake military action is no small matter. Not only

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



are we risking the lives of our armed forces but we are once again spreading ourselves very thin over an area not known for peaceful resolutions. In addition to this, is the expense involved

in any military action. Although republicans now seem to have forgotten the financial burden of the Iraqi War, I have not. To say we cannot afford national health care because of our deficit and yet, not accept any responsibility for the cost of the invasion of Iraq shows political dementia to me. Without a clear cut exit strategy and political consensus, it looks like another decade of reruns.

Anything that impacts our national security, both militarily and financially, deserves the respect of the system of democracy. The more people involved in a decision the more chance we have for bipartisanship. Some ask what if it fails to pass, the answer is no involvement. Those who support military action will be disappointed, but this is the consequence of democracy and one we all need to understand, otherwise the word impeachment will become a regular in our vocabulary. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

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Proudly supporting the forensics team

I had my topic picked for this column, and then my husband and I drove to Brady, Nebraska last Friday to attend a speech contest in which our younger grandson Kaleb participated. He is 16 and a sophomore. He goes out for sports, but is not the "natural" athlete his older brother is. Last year as a freshman, he participated in forensics. It was as though he had found a place of belonging. This year he again participated. Unlike last year, we were not able to attend his competitions.

Kaleb did let us know that he was competing for a spot at state competition last Friday. I found out what time activities began, so we got up really early and drove the 100 miles to Brady. We learned we had arrived way early, as his activity was not until 11:00. However, we made a hit with some of his team mates by bringing freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. We did that several times last year, and the cookies disappeared as though they'd

Life is Good

Rita Speer



was obvious he had practiced his material and knew it thoroughly. He did a great job. Had Bob and I been judging, we would have told the other young people to go home, as we believed Kaleb had won hands down! However, three of the four would go to State competition, so we sat through all the presentations.

We left when it was over, as we planned to make a hospital call and get groceries before coming home. After we got home, I checked Facebook to see if Kaleb had posted anything. There was nothing, so I sent a message to our daughter, asking if he'd made the cut. Then I texted Kaleb and got an immediate reply that he was going to State! He was so very excited.

So tomorrow we'll attend his competition in Kearney. I have no idea what the outcome will be, but this is quite an achievement for him. And we will be present to offer our support and love to a fine young man.

been inhaled. After handing over the cookies to a classmate and being told they really liked it when we came, we never saw the cookies again.

A little later Kaleb came into the Commons area of the school and saw me. His grin went from ear to ear. A little later he saw Bob and gave his grandfather a big hug. We made sure where the room of his competition was located and attended some of his schoolmates' competitions.

Finally it was time for Kaleb's competition. One of the judges was late; she was eating lunch. Kaleb was the first of four. Although he seemed slightly nervous, it



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