

### Republicans get half of what they asked for

Whew!  
The government didn't shut down. Some say that's too bad. Especially the "tea party" bunch. But those people didn't include the military wives who were freezing food in case their husbands didn't get paid later this month because of the feared shutdown.

Nor the great mass of Americans whose stock holdings and other investments might have plunged. The millions of federal workers who would have missed paychecks, only to be paid later for time they didn't work. The workers in "critical" jobs who'd have had to work despite the lack of a check.

No, the Republican party did the right thing when it settled for \$38.5 billion in cuts from this year's budget, rather than demanding the full \$60 billion it had asked for.

For one thing, the GOP lost ground in the Clinton era when it forced a shutdown. The Republicans had the upper hand, but people didn't like to see their government embarrassed.

There would have been no gain for the GOP from a shutdown this year, either, no matter what the hard liners think. There'd have been plenty of blame to go around, but the Republicans would have been painted as the bad guys.

If the deal stands, and Congress goes ahead and passes a budget for the current year, budget cutters will face a far bigger task. Republicans are projecting a need to cut \$6 trillion over the next decade, about \$600 billion a year, from the budget.

To do that will require skill and compromise. The vast military budget will have to be part of the discussion, and Republicans have a hard time cutting that. Otherwise, the cuts would have to come mostly from "discretionary" programs, and there's not enough money there to cut \$600 billion a year.

Worse yet, the deficit is running more than twice that amount, about \$1.3 trillion per year. To balance the budget is going to take two things: some really deep cuts, and a return to prosperity that will refill the federal treasury.

Prosperity produced big surpluses in the Clinton era, for which the Democrats took credit. Bad times are producing big deficits today, deficits made much worse by unrestrained "stimulus" spending.

Now, it's time to pay the bill for all this borrowing. And with the national debt at \$13.2 trillion today, no one is even talking about paying it off, or even putting an end to borrowing. Right now, it's enough to talk about slowing the increase.

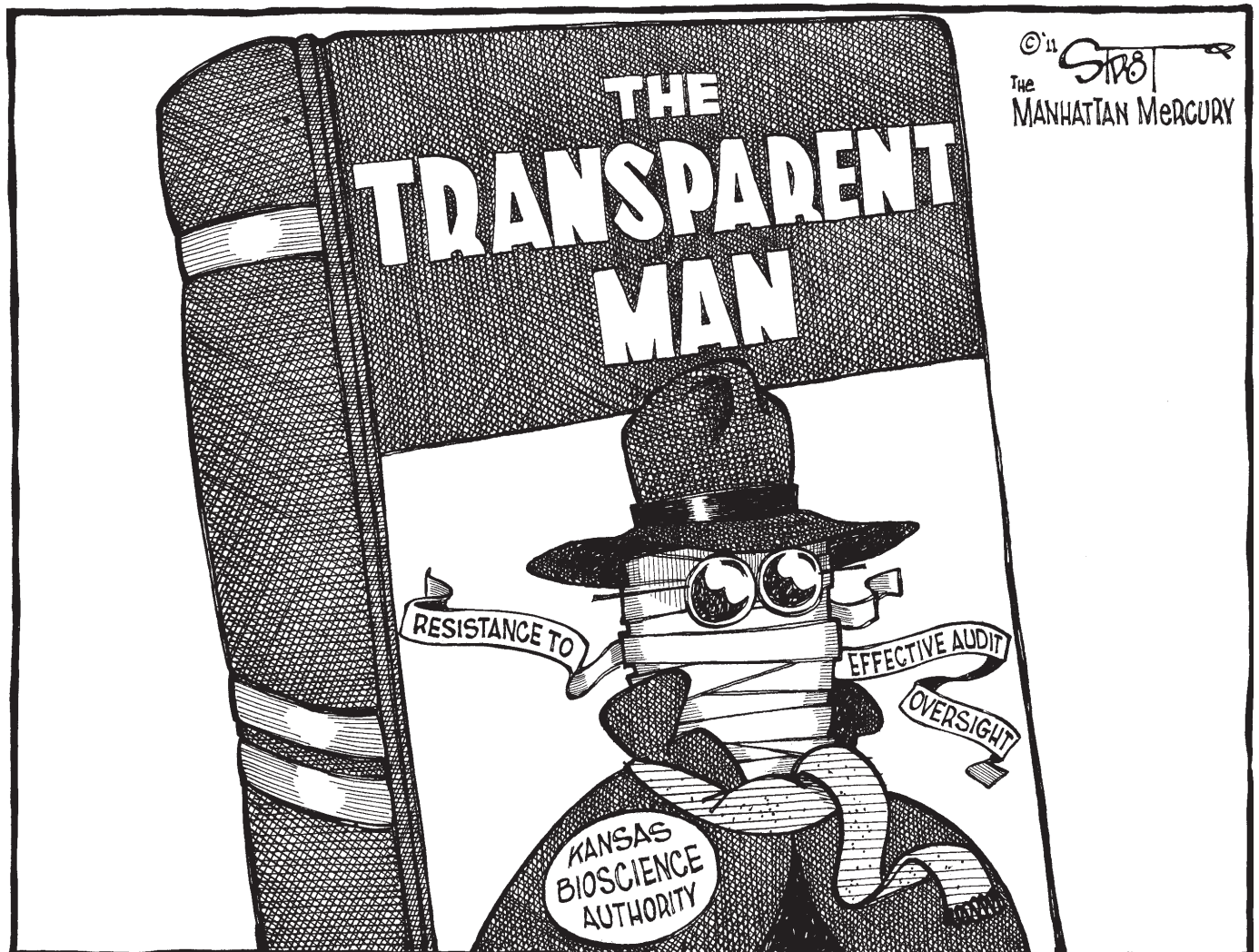
Shut down the government?

It won't save any money or reduce the debt. Most of us might not miss it much, but there are those who would be hurt through no fault of their own.

The best course lies in learning to work together in Washington to do what has to be done, without partisan wrangling or showmanship. That's a lot to ask, of course, but it's what we need.

Then, a united nation could focus on the future deficits and a plan to pay down the debt. It has to happen someday, and with work and cooperation, we just might be able to pull off a reform before financial collapse overtakes us.

— Steve Haynes



### Spring brings blooms and yard work

I had a couple of phone calls the other day, my sister for one. "Have you been working in the yard?"

Excuse me; I don't think we have met. I'm Nancy. Fifteen months older than you and I hate yard work.

It's time though, isn't it? One thing I'm pleased about this year; we have daffodils. At the old house they were planted right south of the house. Since they were protected, they bloomed profusely in early to mid March.

When we moved we temporarily planted them. (Where they stayed for four years!) They did not bloom. Two years ago we got an area cleared for a permanent planting. The first year I didn't get much either. I was thinking of moving them again, now their sunny little faces have me rethinking. That would be work. Who needs it!

My other phone call was from our daughter in Pennsylvania. She reported someone had daffodils at their desk from Daffodil Days. "When I walked by and smelled them, I just felt like I was home," she said, joyfully.

They say smell evokes the strongest memories. I'm pleased about her reaction. Almost makes yard work seem worth it. ALMOST!

We've struggled with re-establishing an iris bed since the move. I had gorgeous

#### This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



iris at Lenora, courtesy of a cousin's late husband, Keith. He grew iris as a hobby, even breeding a new variety. He would sell the tubers but one time when we were visiting (late in the fall) he threw a sack at me. "Too late to plant now," he deemed. "I'm taking the rest to the land fill!" He may have been an expert but he was wrong!

I'm afraid I'm going to have to move the ones that are left yet again. I feel like I let Keith down.

I have a similar feeling about mom's Mock Orange. It blooms about one day in the spring. At the Lenora house one year it up and died. There was some in this yard from mom's original stock. My mother-in-law kept it alive but since we moved here I managed to kill that also.

One thing I originally got from my mom I've made a success of is allium. I used to have a theory you had to grow it from a bulb. But Junior's aunt (who is more than a gardener than I) insisted on taking a dried flower from my yard

for seed. I don't know how she did with hers but later I surmised she was correct as it began coming up all over the place. Not a problem really; just mow around it until it blooms, then cut it off, you can't kill the stuff.

I tried for years to get poppies to grow at Lenora. I never had any luck but there were some in this yard. I think my mother-in-law was trying to get rid of them so I had to carefully cultivate them back. It's so strange. They are very hard to establish but once you get them started they tend to take over. I'm beginning to understand why she had a vendetta against them. Though how can you look at a poppy and not be happy?

Back to my sister; she laughed when I uttered some disparaging words about yard work. She even seemed to understand, which surprised me because her yard is a work of art! I figured she loved it. Maybe I don't know her so well either.

Or my daughter, who is allergic to about 6 different kinds of grasses, basically everything you would use for a lawn. She was talking about saving money for a down payment for a house. I advised her to buy a condo: No grass! No yard work!

Her answer, "Mom, I like to mow!" This can't be my child. The only possibility I can think of: Switched at birth!

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### The people's need for proof versus their belief

#### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



isn't really a state and therefore...you get the picture?

Canadian-Israeli film director Simcha Jacobovici has 'discovered' nails which he is dangling to the Christian media like a carrot in front of the Easter Bunny. He believes these to be the nails from Jesus' crucifixion. He has a detailed reasoning process which brought him to this conclusion or so he says. Supposedly he has sold the rights to the History Channel. One might wonder about both entities.

As for the nails of crucifixion, no one can deny what a horrendous death this would have caused, but I have long

believed when we see Jesus he will say, "You've got it all wrong," not "do you remember how I died?"

"I didn't come to die for you; I came to show you how to live."

Now that does put a load of responsibility on us, doesn't it? If you picked up tomorrow's paper and it read, "Nails prove there never was a Jesus," would it change your belief? Hopefully, no. We believe because of our faith from within, not because of elusive nails, arks or shrouds.

Throughout the years, so called evidence of Christian happenings have 'surfaced' and so has the need for proof of our faith. The need to continue the birth certificate search is much the same. One is to prove because we want to believe; the other is to disprove because we want it to be untrue. Is it seeing is believing or is it believing is seeing? mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

E-mail: nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654  
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers  
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
Publishers, 1970-2002



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