

## Costs force employers to hire fewer workers

A Washington reporter noticed this week that rising unemployment taxes, needed to pay for ever-growing unemployment rolls, might be slowing the economic recovery by keeping employers from hiring more workers.

"Some employers say the extra costs make them less likely to hire," the Associated Press reported. "That could be worrisome ... because small businesses create about 60 percent of new jobs."

Demand has drained the jobless funds of many states, the story says, and nearly half have had to borrow from the federal government.

Most states reset unemployment insurance rates at the end of the year, based on claims, and most apparently plan to raise taxes to pay the bills. The shortfall is estimated at something like \$42 billion.

Tough choice: recovery and more jobs, or jobs pay and higher taxes.

And that ain't the half of it.

Unemployment is in double digits for the first time in 25 years, and unemployment among teens topped 25 percent this summer. For black teens, the rate was 37.5 percent.

Why?

Maybe the huge increases in the federal minimum wages authored by the Democrats in Congress has something to do with it. Employers can't afford to pay teens with little or no experience big bucks. When the minimum wage goes up, what do they do?

Hire fewer, more experienced people. And teens, especially minority teens, get left out.

Of course, the powerful unions pushing for a higher base care mostly about their members, not the marginal job-seekers, mostly kids, who get minimum-wage jobs.

And then there's the \$1 trillion Congress wants to spend on health care. It sounds like a great idea to improve coverage for everyone and bring everyone into the tent, but someone has to pay that bill.

Business owners suspect, in the end, it won't be the rich who get soaked, but them.

Again, the answer is to keep hiring to a minimum and reduce exposure to new or increased taxes. No one is going to create a job just to see costs soar.

Week after week, economists complain that even with the recovery underway, the country just isn't creating new jobs. You see stories about the "jobless recovery" and predictions that double-digit unemployment will linger for years. Federal Reserve Chief Ben Bernanke said as much Monday.

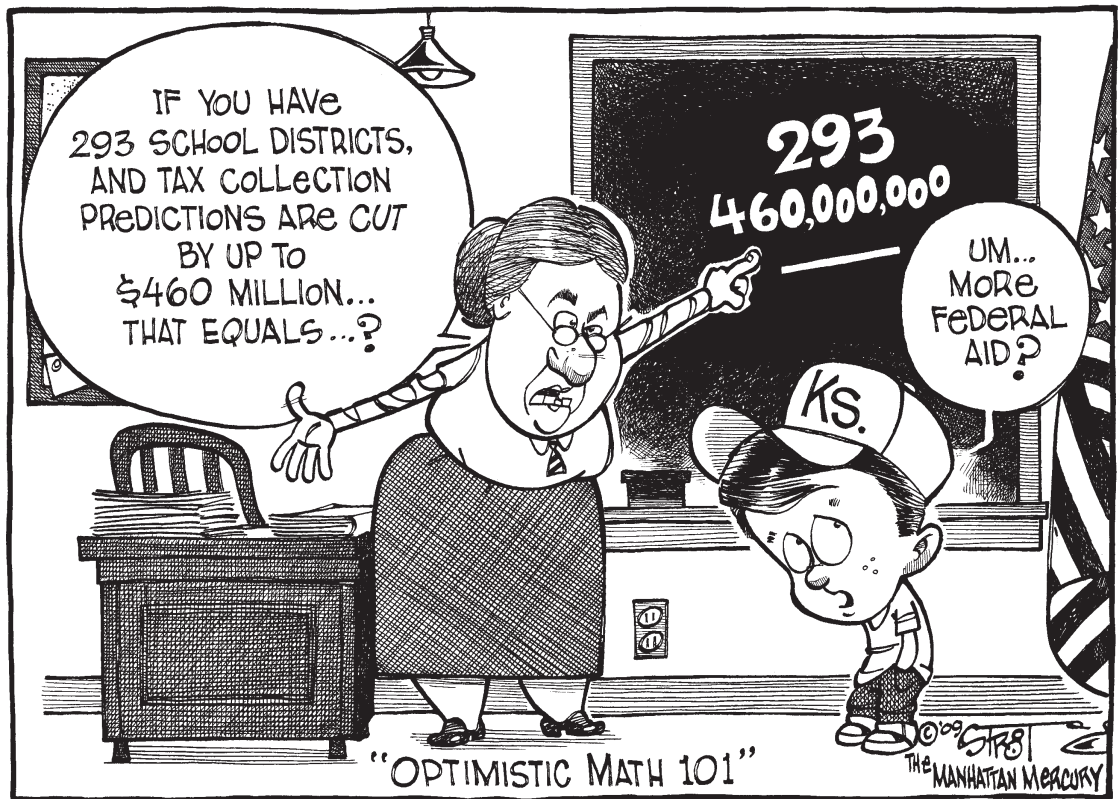
But Congress and the Administration, when not busy rewriting the health-care bill, are stimulating the economy.

Why isn't it working?

Could it be that we've simply made hiring too expensive, and too risky, for the average company? Certainly for small business, where most jobs grow.

Our prediction, the hard-line Democrats running Congress want things their way and don't much care. If you have a job, hang onto it.

— Steve Haynes



## Flowers decorate Texas morn

I'm gazing out the kitchen window. The birds are chirping, the breeze is wafting, the flowers are blooming. Flowers blooming! What are you saying?

If you're in Texas, the flowers are still blooming at the end of November. It's hard to believe, since Kansas flowers have already been under several inches of snow a couple times.

When it comes time every year to go to Texas for Thanksgiving, I usually have to beg Jim to leave by Tuesday. This year, however, he was pretty well caught up on his work and he suggested we leave Sunday afternoon. "If I wanted to."

If I wanted to? What kind of a question was that? Of course I wanted to.

We left Sunday after chapel services and pulled into Dallas about 3 a.m. Monday morning. I know our kids think we're nuts for doing stuff like that, but it works for us. Better to drive all night and not waste a perfectly good day of visiting and cooking by being on the road. So, I'm writing this column on my daughter's laptop at her kitchen table. My granddaughter Taylor is



### Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts  
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helping me when my fingers "hit the wrong key."

"Grandma," she will say with an indignant tone as her little fingers fly over the keys.

— ob —

Taylor has been accepted into a student program that will take her to Canada for a 12-day learning trip this summer. However, it's not free and her family has to come up with several thousand dollars for expenses.

Taylor is collecting aluminum cans, but at pennies per pound, we're looking for other revenue streams. I suggested we make some of Grandma's famous caramel corn that she could sell to friends and neighbors. We'll make a "trial batch," have one bag for sampling and several to sell.

With any luck, we'll have this trip fully funded by the end of the week. If anyone wants some, I am taking orders.

### From the Bible

These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates;

And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the Lord.

Zechariah 8:16-17

## She's ready to go see the kids

I'm getting excited. We're going to go see our children.

We get to see our son for short periods three to four times a year. He lives in Lawrence but works nights, so his schedule is pretty much opposite ours.

As a result, we see him — usually for supper — when we're in the eastern part of the state for some reason.

I always take him piles of leftovers, which he happily accepts, since he's a bachelor and it's hard to cook for one.

This time, I've got little plastic containers of chili, cheese soup, meat loaf, green chili and fried chicken. There is also a package of venison summer sausage, compliments of his cousin Andy, who likes to hunt and got his deer this fall.

After feeding our son, we will get on a plane and fly to Augusta, Ga., to see the girls and their husbands.

Both husbands have changed jobs since we saw them last. They used to work together, but now they both work at home for different Internet companies.

Of course, we want to know how the new jobs are going.

While both guys work at home, they each have to spend about one week a month at their respective home office. Nik's is in Orlando and Brad's is in a Virginia suburb of Washington.

Oldest daughter still has her job at Morris Digitalworks, the Internet division of the company which owns the Augusta Chronicle and several other newspapers. She lost



### Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes  
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one of her best programmers when Brad took the new job.

Youngest daughter is a librarian and teacher for the Medical College of Georgia. She gets to tell would-be doctors what to do. I love it.

We don't usually go to see the girls except in the spring, but this year we're making an extra trip to see little "Ella."

Youngest daughter is expecting our first grandchild around the first of April and Steve and her sister are convinced it's going to be a girl.

We'll know the truth of that conviction in a couple of weeks.

I asked youngest daughter if she wanted to know the sex of her child. She said absolutely, adding that she has a hard time not opening her Christmas presents when they

arrive. There was no way, she said, that she wasn't going to find out that particular detail.

The sonogram is slated for while we are there.

Steve keeps asking about "his granddaughter." (He claims to have no reason for this, saying it's "just a hunch.") Big sister Felicia started calling the baby Ella, her grandmother's middle name. It also happens to be the name we had chosen for our third child, should we have had a girl.

I don't know what the kids will call their baby. It could be Ella or Bunny or Charity, or maybe Steve's wrong and it will be Brad Junior.

But whatever the baby's name, there are a lot folks eagerly waiting its arrival.

### Write

The Oberlin Herald encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan., 67749, or by e-mail

to oberlinherald@nwkansas.com.

We do not publish anonymous letters.

Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality.

## Couple backs longer runway

To the Editor:

It seems that if Oberlin wants to grow, we would be in favor of a longer runway, as well as airport improvements.

Oberlin needs to be able to handle higher performance aircraft, not only business aircraft, but medical and National Guard aircraft as well.

Aviation income from these aircraft, in addition to the opportunity to service in-route aircraft, would not only increase the tax base but also increase business, with the bulk of the money coming from the federal government.

If we don't take advantage of this money, Oberlin will lose another opportunity to grow. Yes, before we

### Letters to the Editor

can bring aviation ancillary business here, we need a modern runway. If we don't use the federal and state money available, the ground our community will. The groundwork

has been done. Let's build an airport we can be proud of. Vote NO if you want to improve the airport.

Stuart and Mary Henzel Oberlin

### Alliance backs airport idea

To the Editor:

The Oberlin Business Alliance wants to publicly announce its support for the airport project. It is the consensus of the members that having an expanded airport with greater aircraft capability would be a benefit

to our town and our economy.

We ask that each voter research the airport question and make an informed vote in the upcoming mail-ballot election.

Oberlin Business Alliance

## Citizen says city needs sewer map

To the Editor:

We all have concerns, or should have, about the place we live and what should or should not be done. Sometimes it is difficult to know which way to turn.

I was always taught if you do not have, you had better think twice — especially the way the economy is going, as it is not good.

One of my greater concerns is our drinking water. We need as much healthy drinking water as we can get. The community's health should be at the top of the list.

Another concern of need I believe is the city needing to have a map of all of the sewers in town.

We had the experience of being involved with needing a map at my mother's house and no one could find any maps at the time.

The other house was used for storage and wasn't hooked up to the sewer system, but the neighbor's sewer kept backing up and going into our house. My poor husband had to clean up fecal material for four days.

We needed the maps and a city

employee informed us they had one but it was lost and never replaced.

We pay each month on our sewers! I would hope the city would get some maps of such locations, as one never knows when it will be needed.

Another important issue is the condition of our streets. Certain ones need to be updated or fixed. It is better to fix the obvious that is needed in the community than to go too far in debt with no return.

Elsie Wolters Oberlin

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## Man wants memorial list

To the Editor:

I'm Dale Musil with the Marshall County Veterans Memorial. I'm trying to put together a list of all veterans' memorials in Kansas. I would like to know if you have a memorial in your city or anywhere in your county.

The size or type doesn't matter; anything honoring veterans is what I am looking for. If you have a memorial, I would like the location, type of memorial (World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, or to all veterans), pictures (if possible) and any other information regarding the memorial you may wish to share with me.

If there is a memorial in the future, or in the planning stages, I would like to know so that I may do a follow-up.

Dale Musil, board member Marshall Co. Veterans Memorial, 503 Spring St. Marysville, Kan. 66508

### Photo policy

The Oberlin Herald wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or news happening that we should attend, please call 475-2206.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can arrange to be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event, but we will try.

Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos un-

less you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

Laser proofs of photos which have run in The Herald are available, first come, first served.

