

## New council would tie state, military responses

There's suspicion in some circles that President Obama is moving to solidify potential control of the country using federal troops.

Constitutionalists worry that creation of a Council of Governors to coordinate response by the Defense Department, Homeland Security, state and federal agencies, the U.S. military Northern Command and the state National Guards poses a threat to our liberty.

That could be; use of federal troops within U.S. borders has always been considered a risky move, not forbidden, just not done.

You can count on your hands the number of times federal troops have gone into action on home soil. George Washington proposed to call up state militias to enforce tax laws during the so-called Whiskey Rebellion, but the issue was settled before he could carry out his threat.

President Eisenhower used federal troops to enforce a court order integrating schools in Little Rock, Ark. And of course, Abraham Lincoln did send blue-suited troops into the south to put down the late rebellion. In some quarters, those are still considered controversial actions.

The current proposal seems to be aimed more at use of troops in emergency situations, whether it might be a terrorist attack, a hurricane or some other disaster of extreme magnitude, though it could apply to an insurrection. The council would coordinate state and federal response. A treaty with Canada quietly signed in recent years would allow joint action by troops of both countries.

States have shown they can handle most disasters themselves. New York responded to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks with dignity and aplomb, but then New York City has more police, fire and medical resources than most states.

Some disasters pose such a broad and deep challenge that they defy state and local resources, however. The great San Francisco earthquake cut the city off from the rest of the world for days. Fire swept the ruins and officials despaired of keeping order.

Only the Army, under Gen. Fred Funston, a Kansan who commanded U.S. troops at the Pre-

sidio, working with city authorities, could quell disorder and keep the peace. What the general and San Francisco's mayor did, declaring a form of martial law, was not considered exactly legal by scholars of the day, but it worked.

Similarly, after public order dissolved in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, only the arrival of the U.S. Army, carrying M-16 rifles, could restore order in the flooded city. The disaster was too complete, the city's forces too broken to do it alone.

We hope this council will help form a way to regulate federal response in situations where it is needed, but that has happened only a few times in our history. It seems unlikely that most of us will see the day when troops are needed again to solve a civil issue.

And while it's true, in the best of all possible worlds, that federal aid in such situations should be planned and regulated, not invented by the commander on the scene, it's also true that once the feds step in with money and people, states are glad to take the money and often back away from their own responsibilities.

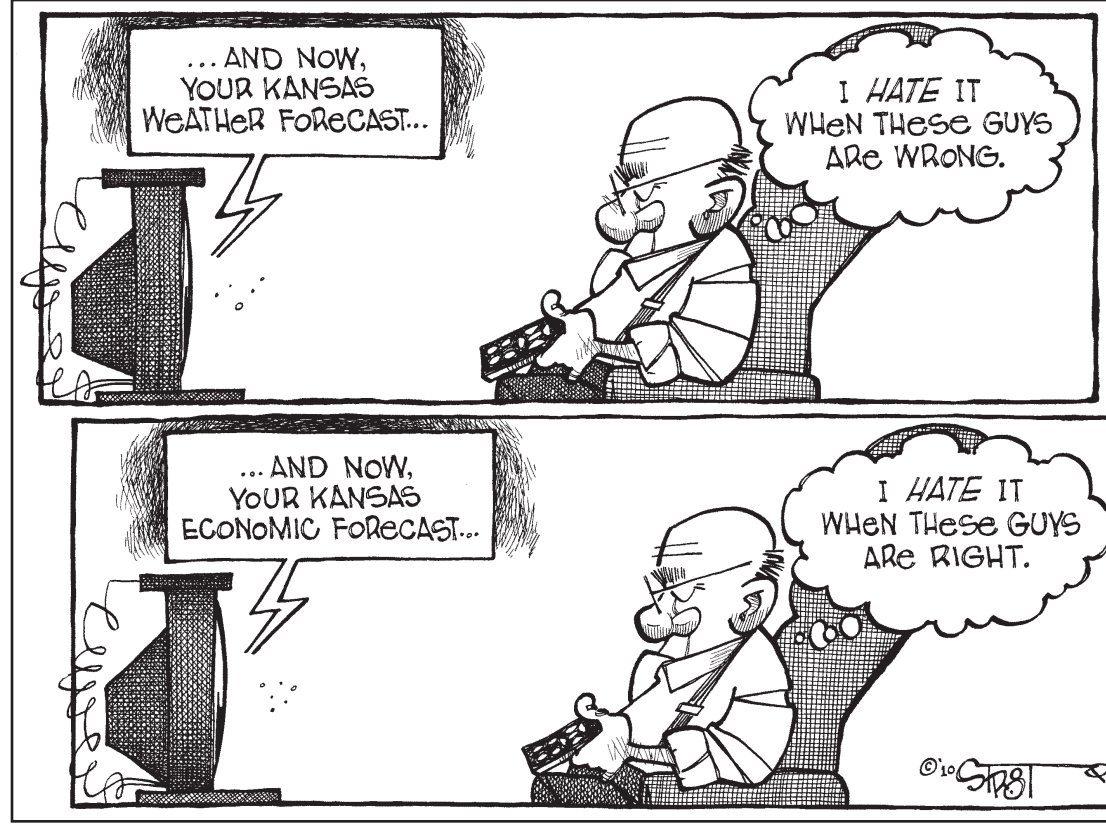
Witness the current mindless clamor to claim federal "disaster" money anytime hail or wind or minor flooding strikes. Twenty years ago, that was unheard of. Today, every county wants as much "federal money" as it can get.

And we shouldn't encourage reliance on federal help, federal troops or federal agencies. States can and should solve most of their own problems.

As to the constitutional danger, it does exist, and we should guard against it. The Council of Governors and the linkage between state and federal agencies, born of a Bush-era budget bill, might be benign. It could be a danger.

We can only say, as with so many things that increase the power of the federal government in all areas, that it needs watching. Federal power, a sleeping bear, has the potential to be dangerous.

If the time ever comes when we wake up in the bear's embrace, it will be too late to do anything about it. — *Steve Haynes*



## Just how old is she, anyway?

I seem to be spending more and more of my time with youngsters, or at least people younger than me.

And with every passing year, that number grows a lot.

I like to tell stories, but these days a lot of my references just go over their heads. I feel like the opposite of the protagonist in the second "Back to the Future" movie trying to get a drink at the drug store.

I finally sat down and wrote out a list of things that I remember or lived through that many of my co-workers might not remember.

I'm so old:

- I remember when we didn't have a television set — no one we knew did.
- I attended a Peter, Paul and Mary concert.
- I remember where I was when John F. Kennedy was shot.
- I watched the Mickey Mouse Club, Captain Kangaroo and Howdy Doody on television at my grandparents' house, since they had one of the first televisions in town.
- I was in college when Neil Armstrong landed on the moon.
- I remember when people got mad when they got an answering machine.
- I shook former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller's hand.
- I remember when Dwight Eisenhower was president and Richard Nixon was vice president.
- Phones came in black and they all had a cord. In fact, until I was in high school, we talked to the operator to make a phone call.
- I remember the Cold War and worrying that the Russians were going to nuke us all.
- Railroads still ran passenger trains, so you could take the Sante Fe, Missouri Pacific or Burlington to get somewhere.
- No one from earth had ever been in space. Space travel was strictly science fiction.
- People got killed going over the Berlin Wall and we ran a supply-drop air lift when the Communists closed off West Berlin, which was in East Germany.
- I used the phone in the lobby of



### Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes  
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my dorm to call my parents every Sunday night but kept those calls short because long distance was expensive.

- Milk came in bottles and sometimes it came in bottles with the cream at the top.
- Everyone got the chicken pox. If one child in town got them, parents would take their children over for "pox parties" so they could get it over with. Most children also got measles and mumps.
- When I was in grade school, Juan Batista was the evil dictator of Cuba and Fidel Castro was the rebel leader who was going to save the country.
- I remember when transistor radios made music mobile. You could suddenly take your radio to the porch, the beach, the mountains, the lake.
- There was no such thing as Diet Coke or Diet Pepsi.
- When I first started wearing hose, I made sure the seams were straight and kept them up with garters.
- Several of my classmates served in the Vietnam War.
- My husband Steve visited New York when he was in high school but didn't visit the twin towers of the World Trade Center — because they hadn't been built yet.
- I remember racial segregation and all the disturbances it took to abolish it.
- Maxwell House and Folgers were the coffee most people drank and a cup cost 5 or 10 cents at a restaurant or you made it in the percolator at home.
- The drug store sold 5 cent Cokes and theater tickets were 50 cents for children and 75 cents for adults.
- One of the sayings for something

that was never expected to change was, "Is the pope Italian?"

- Band Aids came only in dead white or a tan shade known as flesh.
- Central air was virtually unheard of but people had window fans, swamp coolers and the occasional window unit.
- People sat out on the front porch at night, not on the patio or backyard deck.
- A vaccine for polio had not been invented and one of my grade-school friends contracted the dread disease.
- Yes, I really did see *I Love Lucy* and *The Andy Griffin Show* the first time around, and I watched the Beatles on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

**However:**

- I did not have to crank the car to start it.
  - Air travel had been invented by the time I was born.
  - I did not live through the Great Depression or World War II.
  - Teddy and Franklin Roosevelt and Queen Victoria were dead before I was born.
- So there you have it: I'm not older than dirt, but it's likely I'm older than you. (No, Mother I'm not talking about you.)

### From the Bible

Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.

*Psalms 86: 11-12*

## New addiction on the menu

It's bad enough I'm semi-addicted to the home improvement/decorating shows. Lately, I've been catching a few segments of cooking shows.

This morning I watched "Mexican Made Easy" and picked up the recipe for Chocoflan. It sounds like a yummy combination of chocolate cake and flan. Flan is a delicious custard-like dessert I was introduced to in New York.

In fact, when Jim announced he was heading into town for a new tire, I asked him to stop by the store and get a quart of buttermilk. He doesn't know it, but he's going to get "Chocoflaned" tonight.

**-ob-**

Maybe I'm thinking "Mexican" because our October mission trip is coming up. We're doing something different this year. The ministry group we work with, Casas por Cristo, has developed the idea of "Team Casas." During the second week of October, people from all over the country will meet in El Paso and will be assigned to teams of 15 to 20. We'll all cross the border together and build houses for as many families as we have teams.

So far, there are enough for two houses. Hopefully, there will be three or four by the deadline. We're excited. It will be fun to work with



### Out Back

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people we've never met before. We know that they're folks probably a lot like us: willing to step out of their comfort zone a little and to say, "I'll go, send me".

**-ob-**

Anyway, getting ready to go is the hard part. We've sold the calves, and the money we make from them finances the trip. That still leaves the chickens and cats that have to be fed and cared for every day. We haven't mentioned it to son James yet, but he probably assumes he'll be tapped for the duty.

The other part is delegating out our other responsibilities of filling the pulpit at the little country church where Jim preaches four Sundays a month, the prison ministry and operating the hospitality house. You know what, though? Good people always step forward and things always seem to get done.

**-ob-**

Of course, we can't go through

Texas without planning to see our kids. Jennifer and Becky are in San Antonio along with four of our granddaughters and our new great-grandson. Then we are planning a "little" side-trip to New Orleans to see Galene, who I haven't seen in about 25 years. Jim is all for it; he heard there is good Cajun food. From New Orleans, we'll head to Dallas to see our other two girls and granddaughter. Then, it will be on home. And by that time, home will look pretty good.

**-ob-**

My oldest daughter, Halley, knows I am a fan of "Maxine," the crotchety old lady in the cartoons. Maxine says some of the things I only think. Halley e-mailed me some new cartoons. In one Maxine said, "Do you realize in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos, and rap music will be the golden oldies?" Now that's scary.

## County employees deserve raises

To the Editor:

I was not going to respond to Mr. Haynes editorial in last week's paper, knowing that he would thrive on the controversy it would stir. But after giving it much consideration, I could not let our community think this is how our county operates.

I will have to agree with him on ONE thing he said, "Our voters need to be informed." We as Decatur County citizens need to know what is going on in our community.

First off, the county is not looking at increasing the taxes for employee raises. If taxes are increased, it is for daily operation of our county.

Nobody wants to see an increase in taxes. Sometimes it is a necessity to better our community, for roads, airports, movie theaters, bowling alleys and schools just to name a few.

County employees are also citizens of Decatur County; our taxes go up as well as our neighbors'. Most of the Decatur County employees have not seen an increase in their pay for years, and possibly more to come. Yes, we are thankful to have jobs, but as most Americans we

### Letters to the Editor

cannot work for free.

We have families and bills to take care of. We are not demanding raises, as Mr. Haynes stated in his article. We know times are tough for everyone and we are very thankful to have the jobs we have. How did we become so "entitled?" It is our job! Jobs that all Decatur County employees do very well.

Second of all, I am not sure who he was referring to as having full coverage Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance; that is not the Decatur County employees. Insurance is offered to county employees, but we pay for a family plan. Yes, we have a retirement plan that the employees contribute to. That is one of the benefits of working for the county.

The county and its taxpayers are not just donating money to these two things; the employees also pay for this. We work hard for the benefits that are offered. As for having

federal holidays off (there are 10, not 12), Kansas statute No. 35-107 states: "Declared to be legal public holidays and are to be observed as such." Yes, we get these off. However not all county employees get the federal holidays off: dispatch, sheriff's officers, city police, ambulance service, road and bridge (weather permitting).

These are federal holidays, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and we are a government entity, therefore we observe these holidays. It is not like we close the county down just to be taking days off. These are federal holidays!

Mr. Haynes says that voters have to get mad. I disagree! When people get mad, they tend to make bad choices. (I guess he was mad when he wrote this article.) Our voters need to be informed, not mad. If you have questions...ask!

Keri Bryan, Oberlin

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## Candidate has good stop here

To the Editor:

This past Saturday, I visited Oberlin as part of my campaign for attorney general. A cold front had come through — it was downright chilly — but your community's hospitality was warm. I enjoyed the threshing show at the fairgrounds, and even got to appreciate your locksmith's

help when our keys were locked in our car!

Thank you for welcoming me to your community.

Derek Schmidt  
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