

Government needs to act to remove ridiculous rule

Democrats and Republicans in Washington now agree, the changes in Internal Revenue Service form 1099 requirements hidden in the Obama Health Care bills last year just have to be changed before they strangle business in this country, big and small.

The 1099 provisions were little noticed when the thousand-page-plus bill was in Congress, but the damage they could do is quite apparent by the light of day. Businesses are frightened by the cost of reporting every transaction, even between corporations. And the irony of the situation is the IRS can't handle the influx of information the plan would produce.

Issuing 1099 forms is nothing new. Businesses have had to deal with them for years, but most requirements apply to payments to individuals outside the withholding-tax system. IRS thought for years that it was getting cheated by people who didn't report income for home businesses and investments like savings accounts and stocks.

The service got Congress to require reports for payments to individuals. Most businesses managed to comply, though for some, such as banks, the requirements can be expensive and unproductive.

Banks, for instance, have to report interest payments as small as \$10 a year. You can rest assured that IRS knows about your kid's bank account and expects it to be accounted for on someone's income tax return.

Now, however, businesses will have to report millions and millions of corporate transactions, which will be nearly impossible to match to tax returns.

One problem here is that while the government expects to reap the rewards of this program through increases in tax payments, it's the businesses that foot the bill. In some cases, that may be higher than the benefit to the government. Never mind that. The gov-

ernment will benefit, and it makes the rules. We don't.

It's time for that kind of thinking to stop.

Now, a bipartisan movement may be developing to eliminate the new rules, which would produce millions more forms and cost billions. Sen. Mike Johanns, a Nebraska Republican, and Sen. Max Baucus, the Montana Democrat who chairs the Senate Finance Committee, both have amendments in to remove this burden.

The issue that will have to be settled is how to "pay" for the change, since it's recorded in federal books as bringing in \$17 billion a year to reduce the deficit.

The main difference is that Sen. Johanns identifies ways to make up for the loss, while the Baucus bill simply repeals the requirements. That will have to be compromised to get a bill through the Senate and House before the end of the year, an act of bipartisanship that might be akin to a minor miracle.

The Senate amendments, by the way, would be appended to something called the Food Safety Act. Go figure.

Our own Rep. Jerry Moran was early to get on the bandwagon, helping to sponsor a House amendment which would accomplish the same thing. Hopefully, the repeal will gain traction and move before he becomes Sen. Moran.

Business groups, including the National Newspaper Association, have united against this outrage. Everyone who realizes the importance of jobs and small business to the economy ought to do likewise.

We call on Congress to get this issue dealt with before the end of the year, when tax forms have to be finalized and distributed. Repeal is urgent, time is short. Get with it, ladies and gentlemen. — *Steve Haynes*



Things just keep changing

Things really have changed in the last 30 to 40 years.

Changed in some very fundamental ways.

Changed in the way people look at themselves and at others.

I was cleaning out a junk drawer and came across a pair of cuff links. It was the appreciation gift I received after five years as a pharmacist for the Revco chain.

There were so few women pharmacists in those days, cuff links to go on a man's dress shirt, were considered a nice little present.

When I graduated from the University of Kansas in 1971, 10 percent of my class were women. Six of us.

Today, pharmacy classes average more women than men. Law schools, medical colleges, even veterinary schools have classes where more than half the students are women.

Back when I was in school, women were marching for peace, burning their bras and joining the feminist movement. Today, what those women fought for has come to pass.

Today, a man can wear pink and stand proud and masculine. Men can be nurses and waiters and teachers and, yes, even stay at home with their children while their wives earn the family paycheck.

Women can be engineers, soldiers, farmers or auto mechanics. They can wear makeup and get their hands dirty at the same time. They



Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes
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can dress in overalls during the day and frilly dresses at night.

A friend who spent 20 years in the Air Force told me that during training, she always wore her sexiest underwear under the combat gear. She was the only one to know, but while on the outside, she was a soldier, inside she knew she was still all female.

My father would never, ever have worn a pink shirt. My husband has several.

This same quiet revolution is taking place within the gay and lesbian community today.

First homosexuals were not allowed in the military. Then it was "don't ask, don't tell." Now most younger soldiers just don't care. If the person next to them works hard, does what they are supposed to do and has their back, they don't care if that person is black, white, male, female, gay, lesbian, Hispanic, Asian or purple.

Back in my youth, we knew there were some guys who didn't date and seemed, well, different. Some people avoided them. Sometimes they were snickered at or arrested

for immoral conduct.

Then people started coming out of the closet. Gay and lesbian became part of our vocabulary.

Slowly, so slowly, we're becoming a more accepting society.

Life really has changed in those 30 to 40 years. And while some of it may not have been for the best, much of it has made us a better, more tolerant nation.

Now, let's work a little more on religion □ Christians, Jews, Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists, Wickens. If they work hard, do what they are supposed to do and have your back, let them stand by your side.

Some day, the boss will show us all who was closest to "right."

From the Bible

And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath. *St. Mark 2: 27-28*

Truck nearly causes wreck



Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts
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I thought surely the driver would correct and get back into the proper lane, but the truck kept coming and coming until I had no choice but to head for the ditch. The driver (I hate to admit it was a woman) was still talking on her cell phone when she went past us, still in our lane. She drove about a quarter of a mile before she got back over into her side.

I'm not sure she was even aware of how close she came to not only killing herself, but maybe killing us, too. We considered calling the police, but without a tag number or a positive ID of the driver, we knew nothing could be done.

I just hope she reads this, comes to understand how dangerous her actions were and vows to never do anything foolish like that again.

I called my new daughter-in-law, Charlotte, a few days after the wedding and said, "Hello, Mrs.

Plotts."

You could hear the smile in her voice when she said, "That sure sounds good to me. Hello, to you, too, Mrs. Plotts."

I just realized that Charlotte and I now have the same initials. We could share monograms. Saturday morning, Jim and I called James and Charlotte to say, "Happy Anniversary." After all, they've been married a whole week.

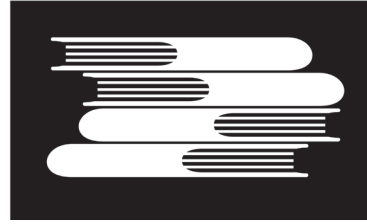
I've been watching the television series "Sarah Palin's Alaska," and I find myself liking her more and more. She is the kind of woman I would like to hang out with. She knows how to work, she values her family above all else, she is a Godly woman, she doesn't take herself too seriously although, she is dead serious about causes she believes in, her husband is a real working man, and she is a good shot and a good mother.

I was settled in to watch the segment where Gov. Palin and her father go hunting for caribou. A disclaimer flashed on the television screen: "Warning: This broadcast may contain material objectionable to some viewers."

I asked myself what anyone could find objectionable in a show about Alaska. Then I remembered the hunting scenes in the teaser commercials leading up the broadcast. There would, surely, be someone who would object to her killing an animal. Never mind that she dropped it in one shot or that it was food to feed her family.

The impression I got was that she and her father had a deep love for the land and a respect for the animals they took as food. Her father said he had raised her that way and that he was proud of her.

As parents, isn't that all we could hope for? To be proud of the way we raised our children and of the adults they have become.



Photographer shows oil spill

There's always a story at the Associated Press's annual meeting for Missouri and Kansas publishers and editors in Kansas City each December.

This year, it came from Charlie Riedel, a veteran photographer who started his career at the Hays Daily News, moved on to the Salina Journal (both papers owned by the Harris group out of Hutchinson) and then on to the AP at Kansas City.

Mr. Riedel, a native Kansan, caught readers' eyes with beautiful, dramatic shots, whether it was the weather or a big fire, a Christmas party or a tragedy. He had the great good fortune to work for papers that appreciate fine photography and know how to use it.

And at the Associated Press, he joined an organization which owns more photo prizes than any other, a team where taking the iconic picture of any event is just standard procedure.

And it was Charlie Riedel's photos of oil-covered pelicans that became the image in our minds of costal damage from the gulf oil spill earlier this year. While he says he and his family like living in Kansas City, he loves to go out on assignments outside the area. The oil spill was a big job, being covered by dozens of newsmen, but he said, a tough case to crack.

When he got there, about three weeks after the fire and explosion which destroyed the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform, there was not much to shoot. The fire was out, the platform cold and there was no



Along the Sappa

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oil on the beaches. Not yet.

It was early June, in fact, before he could make the pictures that would resound with readers and viewers around the world. Until then, the oil had not really piled up on the shore.

Because it was so expensive to hire a boat or helicopter to get out to costal islands, he said, he and other newsmen were hitching rides with the governor's office, county officials, environmental groups, anyone who was going. He was with a party including Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal when he wandered away from the routine photo op and walked down the beach. There he found three birds, two brown pelicans and a gull, foundering in thick oil.

Riedel said he shot dozens of frames and moved about 50 photos on the wire that night. By the next day, his phone was ringing constantly. Though he was out on a boat again, taking more pictures, he had calls from newspapers, television producers and others all over the country.

Within a few days, his wife and daughter had created a Facebook fan page to take all the "friend" requests

he was getting from strangers. All that was a little surreal, he added.

One result of the photos, he said, was more teams hit the beaches to find and rescue birds and other wildlife. Another was that restrictions on photography suddenly got a lot tighter. Security people hired by or influenced by BP (or British Petroleum, as it used to be known) tried to keep news people off the beaches and away from the action.

One day when he got tired of being harassed, he said, he started asking why the area was off limits and what would happen if he didn't leave. No one had a good reason, he said, and he stayed. Eventually, a couple of BP safety officers told him they'd have to decontaminate his shoes before he could leave.

"From that point on..." Mr. Riedel said, "it sort of became my mission to tell the wildlife story on the beaches."

We're lucky to have people out there like Charlie Riedel, the AP Missouri-Kansas Staffer of the Year, to represent us in places where the bad guys, the self-important corporations and public officials, don't want us to look.

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