

## American people tired of Washington's inaction

As Congress and the president come down to the wire next month, we're sure they will come up with a deal to raise the budget ceiling and avert a financial disaster.

When they do, they need to keep in mind what the American people want. That, we believe, is nothing less than a new approach to federal spending and the economy.

So what do we want? Here's a wish list:

- An end to endless deficits. As the states have been doing, the federal government needs to wake up and realize that resources are finite. We only have so much money, and we can't continue to overspend our income.

With Europe finally coming to its senses, Washington is about the last place on earth where financial reality has not settled.

- A simplified, fair tax structure, where everyone pays his share, rich and middle class alike. The tax code should not be about winners and losers, just about raising revenue and doing it fairly.

This may take time, but a general agreement is required now.

- No tax increase. The government has plenty of money. Instead of increasing the tax bite, except where fairness demands changes, the government just needs to learn to live with its income.

That's what the rest of us, taxpayers, states and local governments now have to do. The federal government needs to do the same.

- Transparency. The public needs to know what happens, what deals are struck, and the consequences will be. That will be especially tough for Congress and the White House. They are used to putting whatever "spin" they feel like on the news.

This time, they need to come clean. The American people are tired of getting the run-around. We're tired of those in Washington putting off hard decisions and letting the government drift from crisis to crisis, all the time telling us they are taking care of things.

If things had been taken care of, we wouldn't be in this mess, would we?

- A pledge that this is the very last time we'll have to put up with an increase in the debt limit. Everyone has been nodding and agreeing when the Treasury asks for more borrowing power. The "tea party" members are right when they decry this kind of business-as-usual approach to the deficit.

The national debt has piled higher and higher. This is the time for everyone to agree that enough is enough.

- As the smoke fades, a return to true bipartisan government, where the opposing forces put aside the next election and just do what's right for the country.

And if all that happens, maybe we'll re-elect some of them next year. Just maybe.

— Steve Haynes

## On budget, we don't get it

Watching and listening the other day at Rep. Tim Huelskamp's "town hall" meeting in Oberlin, it occurred to me that a lot of us really don't "get it" when it comes to the financial crisis in Washington.

While the congressman was talking about voting against an increase in the federal debt limit to bring the White House to its senses on spending, people were still asking about federal grants.

We agree, Oberlin needs airport improvements promised by the government. Cities and school and counties need money for a lot of things. But like everyone else, we need to face reality: The government has promised to spend a lot of money it doesn't have.

We know the people who want to spend that money are going to complain like crazy if they don't get it.

And while we think Oberlin will get money to repair and relocate the main north-south runway at the airport, and maybe even to build a new 5,500-foot runway, it may take longer than expected as the government spreads out the spending.

The Federal Aviation Administration doesn't know how much it will have to spend this year. That will continue until the transportation budget is settled in Congress, and that could be a few months.

We need to expect some delays, and maybe even welcome them. It means the government is finally waking up to the problem of ever-increasing deficits and debt. The American people seem to agree that's the top priority.

At the same time, we all want "our" programs to continue without cuts. We want "our" grants and we



### Along the Sappa

By Steve Haynes  
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want "our money to spend from the government. That's only natural.

This time, however, the government may finally have hit the wall, as the bloc of "tea party" members elected to Congress last year pushes for an end to endless spending.

"The bottom line is this," Mr. Huelskamp said. "Washington can't do everything."

Amen to that. Yet, important as curbing spending is, it's also vital to free up the economy to get people back to work.

"Forty-five million Americans are on Food Stamps," he said. "Three years ago, it was only 27 million. And 13.9 million are out of work. That is unacceptable."

Dr. Jay Anderson asked what the administration's vision for the country is.

"To spend more money to grow the economy," the congressman replied. "To regulate more."

Someone asked if they wanted to ruin the country. He replied, "No."

"They just have a different vision than we do. One's going to work; one isn't."

"I'm not going to challenge people's motives. I'm going to challenge their policies."

Noting that changes to federal law after the mortgage crisis may

make it nearly impossible to get a home loan, he said: "We're going to have a major credit crisis in rural America because of it. The result will be fewer community banks in rural America."

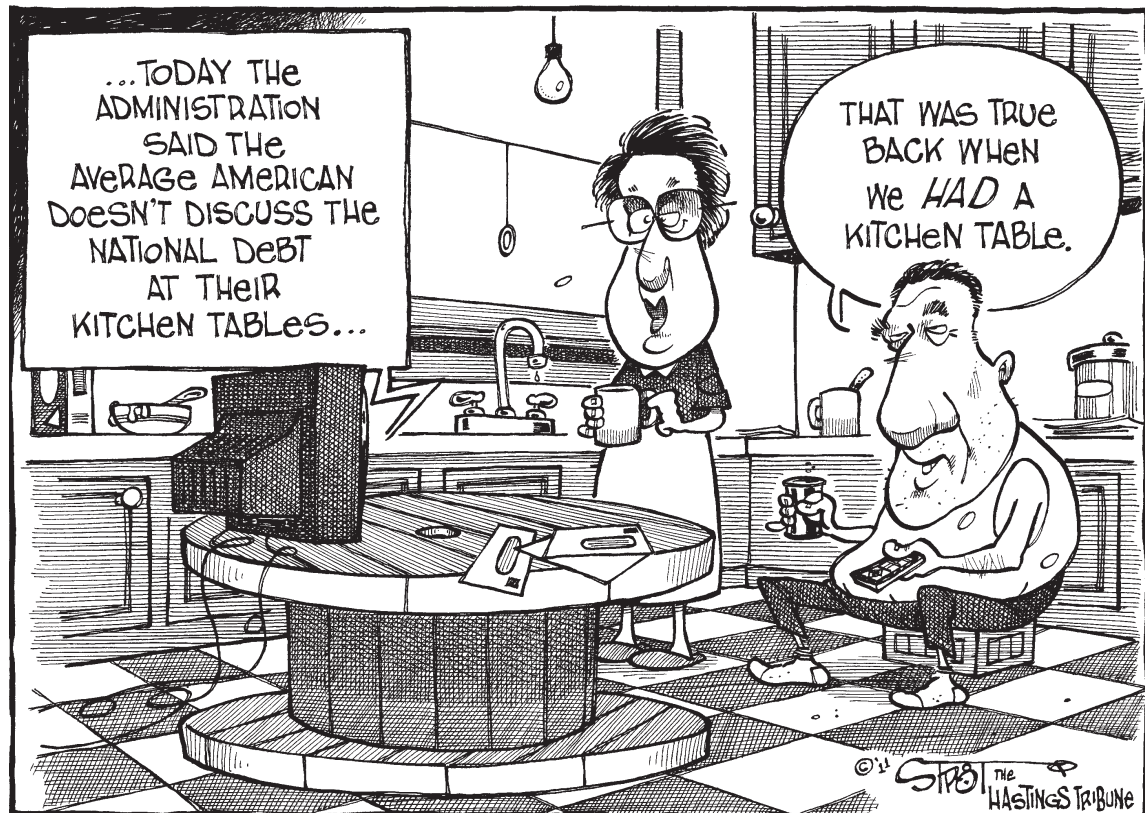
Someone asked what people could do.

"Pray for me," Mr. Huelskamp replied. "Pray for all our leaders. We have some real issues to face, and we need some real wisdom to face them with."

### From the Bible

And the Lord said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me."

— Matthew 19: 3-5



## Diabetic cat gets attention

Diabetes is a nasty disease. My father-in-law had it, and it was hard on the whole family.

Steve watches his diet, has his blood sugar checked regularly and exercises faithfully. But sometimes, nothing you do is enough and a member of your family succumbs.

We knew she had a problem. She she started drinking increasing amounts of water. Then she started urinating — not just where and when she was supposed to, but everywhere and only small amounts at a time.

We both were pretty sure what the problem was, but we waited for the expert's opinion.

We were right. The doctor took a small blood sample and checked it on his meter. Her blood sugar was over 300, with normal being just over 100.

Molly has diabetes. She'll need at least one insulin shot every day for the rest of her life.

And that's not as easy as it sounds since Molly is a cat. Our gray and white, slightly overweight, very bossy cat, to be specific.

This is going to cause a major change in all our lives.

The veterinarian suggested that they keep her for a few days to get her stabilized and then show us how to give her the shots. Oh, and did we want to give the shots in the morning or the evening?

After some discussion, we decided on mornings. We tend to get going about the same time every day,



### Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes  
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but our nights can be really hectic. Sometimes we get home at 6 p.m., sometimes at 9 p.m. and sometimes it's midnight to 1 a.m.

That didn't seem to be a very good regimen for insulin shots, which should be given at about the same time each day.

And since it's mornings, I'm sure I'll get to do the deed most days.

I never wanted to give shots. When Steve took allergy shots in the early years of our marriage, I told him he'd better learn to give them to himself because I didn't do shots.

And I didn't. For more than 60 years, I happily didn't give shots. Then I was told if I wanted to keep my pharmacy job, I would learn to give shots. I learned to give shots, and last year I gave flu shots to several dozen people.

Now, the operative word here is people. In fact, it's people who asked for a shot, not a cat which doesn't know what's good for her and definitely doesn't want a shot.

The technician says to grab the skin on the back of her neck and jab the 5 units of mixed fast and long-acting insulin in before she knows

what's happened. That's all well and good, but you gotta have the cat before you can give it a shot.

The vet's suggestion: Take up the big food bowl in the basement. Provide food once a day when it's time for the shot. This way, instead of searching a three-story house plus yard and garage for an elusive cat, she will come to me.

That's a good idea. Unfortunately, it means that the other three felines in the house will all have to start living under this new diet. They're not going to like it. I can guarantee that.

I emptied the big cat bowl this evening. In the morning, I'm picking up Molly at the vet for my injection lesson and a vial of insulin. I don't think I'll be late. I expect by about 6 a.m., there will be three cats on our bed complaining because the food bowl is, not only empty but, gone.

I'll admit I'm a little skeptical. But then again, I swore I'd never needle Steve, and not only have been doing that for 40 years, I gave him his flu shot last fall.

## She's comin' home to cool off

After spending a few days in Texas, we're beginning to think Kansas is a "chill zone." One day, the car thermometer registered 112 degrees. By anyone's standards, that's hot.

How hot is it? It is so hot that the water in Kara and Adam's swimming pool feels more like a tepid bathtub. Wanting to take advantage of a pool outside the back door, I invited them to go for a swim with me and thought it strange they both replied, "No. That's OK. You go ahead."

I suited up and headed out to the pool. I slipped off my sandals, and that's when it hit me.

"Hot! Hot! Hot!" was all I could shout as the burning pavement scorched the soles of my feet. I made a mad dash for the water, but little relief was waiting there. The water was hot, too. I paddled around for a few minutes, working up more of a sweat in the water than out.

It was too much for Kara's dog, Gracie. Her paws must have been burning, because she made a flying leap into the pool beside me. The dog and I both had to work up the courage to get back onto the concrete and find some shade.

—ob—



### Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts  
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Normally, I hate to go shopping, unless it's a really good second-hand store. Just so happens there is an excellent one close to Kara and Adam's home. I make it a point to stop in when we come to visit.

Kara, my older daughter Halley and I had just walked in the door when I spotted it: A tall, four-drawer file cabinet. No dings, no dents and all the drawers worked. Perfect for our new home office. However, there was no price tag.

I told Halley, "I'll stand guard. You go find out how much it is." Halley disappeared to the front of the store and moments later the manager appeared with an \$8.99 price sticker.

"I'm sorry," she said. "Another woman just bought it."

My offer to double the asking price had no effect. She repeated herself, "I'm sorry." At that mo-

ment, Halley returned and the store manager said, "Here's the other woman, now." What a relief. I had been bidding against myself.

With a little maneuvering, Jim should be able to fit the cabinet in the back of the van, providing Taylor doesn't want to bring too much for her 10-day stay with us. Guess we could pack some of her stuff in the drawers.

—ob—

It's official. Taylor is a certified, card-carryin', born-again Christian. Her baptism was Sunday afternoon at a lake along with 10 others, both adults and youths, from her congregation. About 100 gathered to witness the event.

Cheers and clapping accompanied each baptism. It was a great event, and Jim and I are so glad we got to be part of it and share the day with Taylor and her parents.

## Carnival group improving rides

To the Editor:  
Can you believe that it's fair time already?

This year is the first the Amusement Authority board has had a full roster of members, so we are excited about what we can get done. We continue to make improvements, as we have the last three years, and are planning to have some new games and possibly a new ride next year. Stay tuned for details.

Due to a generous donation from a local resident, we will be able to achieve some of those goals. Our priority, as always, is safety. Some of the rides need to be completely rewired, rebuilt or replaced. We have started on those already.

With this donation, we plan to set up a fund for game and ride replacement. We are also planning on having plaques made honoring

those that have donated or helped make our fair what it is today. If you have any history to help us with this, please let us know.

If things go well, we are hoping to get a ride for the mid-age group, as one is desperately needed. We also need to replace the toy vans. They are so old and weathered — you can see daylight through them and the floors are rotted — that they are just not safe anymore. We have found some storage units that will be sealed and can be placed on the grounds. We will replace those after the fair, if funds allow.

With those of us that have stayed on, and the new members who bring youth and new ideas, we are look-

ing toward the future in a positive way.

But let's not forget the volunteers! The sign-up sheets are in the Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center (old Farmers National Bank). If you can't make it to town, please call me at (785) 475-8983 or (785) 470-269-7269, and I will make sure you get a spot. I will be calling those who have helped in the past as well.

Looking forward to Aug. 2 through Aug. 6, and the Decatur County Fair.

Judy G. Scott, president  
Decatur County Amusement Authority

### Letter to the Editor

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