

Another failure leaves federal budget bloated

So the so-called "Supercommittee" lets us down, failing to reach an agreement on how to chop the federal budget.

It joins the presidential commission and Congress as a whole in disappointing us. Both parties are playing politics coming up to next fall's elections. Some say it's not likely there'll be any compromise before then. It's a dangerous game for incumbents, however.

People want the country to move toward a solution to the debt crisis. They want progress, they want compromise, they want answers. And politics as usual won't provide them.

Voters are likely to go into the elections in a surly mood. The nation's wars will be over, but the fiscal fight not yet really begun. And that will make it yet another season for challengers.

The "tea party" Republicans elected last year will cry "We told you so," but even they may be vulnerable. Democrats and Republicans who've done nothing will be in real danger; neither party stands to gain as much as it might lose.

The stakes, in short, are high, and the country is not likely to get what people want before the election. After the election, there could be a whole lot more new faces in Washington.

Why the deadlock?

Campaign rhetoric, mostly. Republicans cry for cuts to "entitlements," welfare, Social

Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Democrats reject that and demand tax increases on "the wealthy."

Both parties put up a smoke screen that they are fighting for us, but in truth, they are fighting to hold onto — or increase — their power. To a point, there is nothing wrong with that. Voters may feel both passed that point years ago, however.

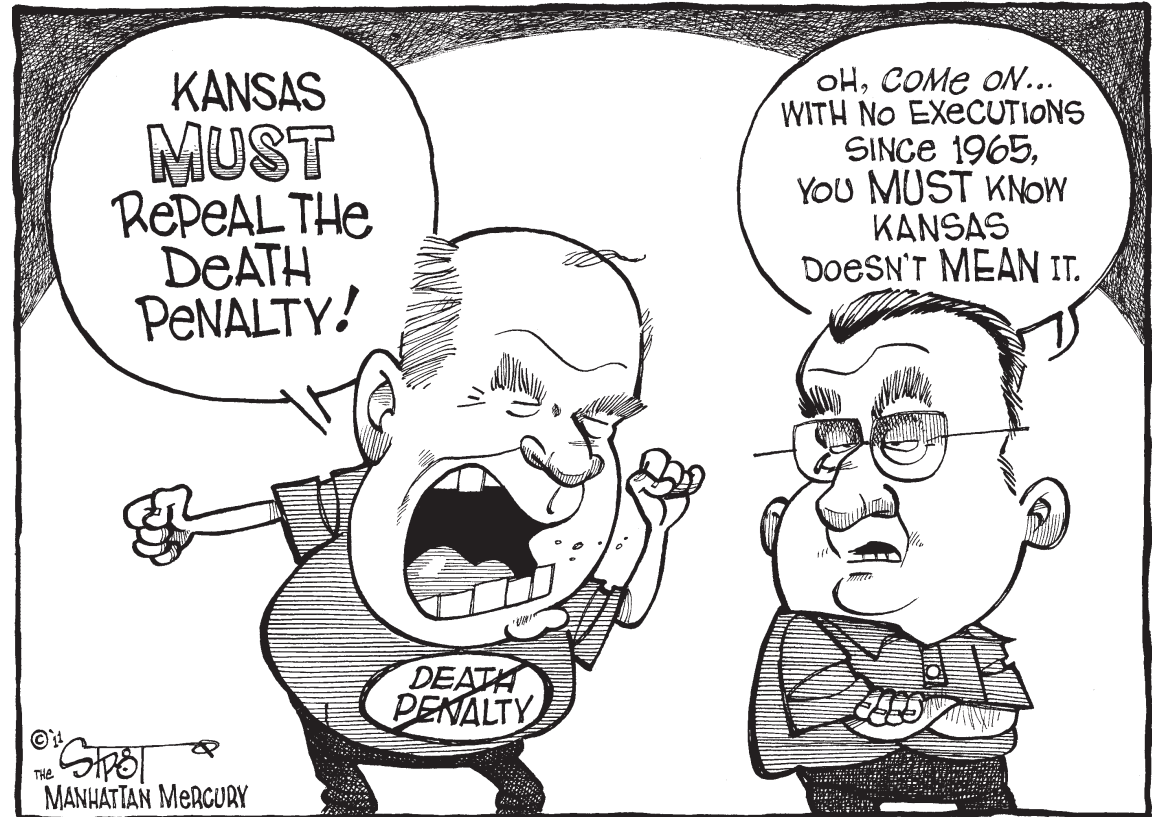
Having a government that works demands compromise, the ability to work together, a concern for the good of the nation. Those things are rare in politics, rarer still in our history. But this is one of those times that demand we pull together, not just pull for votes.

Democrats have to admit that automatic increases to "entitlements" must be curbed. Republicans are going to have to give more than \$3 billion in new revenue. Some other rifts need to be patched over.

The congressman or senator who ignores those truths risks the wrath of voters who are simply tired of games and tired of waiting.

It will take, as Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas said Monday, courage, more than anything, to work together with the other party and put the good of the whole nation first.

Ladies and gentlemen, the time is now, not two years from now, to start solving this problem, curb spending and balance the budget. Let's get with it. — *Steve Haynes*



Nothing like 'Joy' in kitchen

Steve was looking up a recipe the other day, and he pulled out my old copy of "Joy of Cooking".

"Was this a wedding present?" he asked, noting that it was the 1971 printing.

No, not quite. I bought it about a year after we were married.

For some reason, I wanted to make egg rolls and the only cookbook I had didn't have them in it. I stopped at a bookstore near where I worked in Kansas City and bought two books, "Joy of Cooking" and a Chinese cookbook.

I have no idea what happened to the Chinese cookbook, but "Joy of Cooking" became my kitchen Bible.

I suppose I made the egg rolls. I really don't remember. It's not a recipe I've used since.

However, I learned how to cook a turkey the next Thanksgiving by following the directions in my new companion.

Then, a few years later, when we bought a case of Jonathan apples from the area around Weston, Mo., I learned how to make an apple pie.

I remember peeling, coring and slicing apples in the evening after I got off work at 9 p.m. Then I would mix them with the spices and freeze them in one-pie bags. All I had to do then was get the "Joy of Cooking" down and check the recipe for pie crust, thaw my apples, and I had a pie.

"The Joy of Cooking" is 75 years old. It was written and self-pub-



Open Season

By *Cynthia Haynes*
c.haynes@nwkansan.com

lished by Irma Brombauer and illustrated by her daughter, Marion Becker, in 1931. Since then, editions have been published in 1936, 1943-'46, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1997 and 2006. Somewhere in the 60s, it lost the "The" in its name. Today, the fourth generation of the family is working to update the book.

Over the years, we used "Joy" when I decided I wanted to make quiche. I still get the book out each time to check the recipe just so we don't forget anything. We've only made that quiche recipe about a hundred times.

The other thing we grab the book for about every other month or so is the recipe for Caesar salad dressing. When we wanted to make it, it was there in the book.

While I tend to make the quiches, Steve has taken over the Caesar dressing. He's gotten to be a master at that dressing and a big salad for two with fresh Caesar dressing made in a blender — he uses the whole can of anchovies instead of three filets — is supper.

(Well, what would you do with

two-thirds of a can of anchovies? And, don't say pizza!) The book that Steve was thumbing through was my old one, complete with food stains and a broken binding. It has been well used and appreciated.

I have a newer copy. It's got some updates, but seems to have all the old favorites.

Over the years, as my children have grown up and moved away, I've gotten each of them their own "Joy of Cooking." It's always a good thing to have around, when you need to look up how to make a meringue or stuffing for the turkey.

You can learn how to fix just about anything if you have a "Joy of Cooking."

So, put that antique away, Steve, and hand me the new one. Thanksgiving is coming up and I need to look up pumpkin pie. No, don't worry, I'll make you an apple pie, too. Yes, with Jonathan apples and a lattice crust. The instructions are all in the book.

Corn binge leaves her cold

So I sold all the caramel corn. But at what price?

I was exhausted and at the mercy of whatever cold or flu bug that lurked in the shadows. From Monday night through Friday, I felt so bad I thought I might die. Then, I got worse and was afraid I wouldn't.

I spent most nights in the recliner because if I tried to sleep in bed, Jim couldn't, the coughing was so bad. During those four days I scarcely moved.

My column about the lack of decent television programming came back to haunt me. I was assailed with "Excused," "Gold Rush" and "I Shouldn't Be Alive." There's a new one coming on about two Texas beauties who are professional wild-hog hunters. Gee, sorry I might miss that one.

Anyway there was enough "Animal Precinct Cops: Houston" and "Property Brothers" to sustain me. I think I wore out the batteries in the remote, though.

Back "in the day," how did we ever manage being sick without 500 cable channels to click through. I remember my mother reading to me while I sat under her improvised steam tent of a towel draped over an umbrella. There was some admonition about children not supposed to read while they had whatever it was going around. Bad for the eyes, it seems.

I remember my dad teaching me to play "Authors" during mumps, measles or perhaps it was chicken pox. No matter the age, fever is still fever and all you want to do is sleep.

I'll spare you the gory details, but I was one sick puppy. Friday night, though, a corner was turned and it was like a flash bulb went off. I felt



Out Back

By *Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts*
cplotts65@gmail.com

like doing something and while Jim was at a wedding rehearsal, I started laundry and dishes. I ran the vacuum and cleaned the bathroom.

Granted, I did everything in spurts. Work for five minutes; sit down for 10 minutes. Repeat. I was still weak, but I could see the light — and it wasn't that bright light people report in near-death experiences.

The big step came on Saturday, when I actually showered, shampooed my hair and put on make-up. It's amazing how a little mascara can lift your spirits. I looked in the mirror and say, "Hey, girl. It's good to have you back."

We had a wedding to go to. Jim had been asked to perform the ceremony for a young couple we know. When met Abigail while she was in high school. She went with us on our very first mission trip, and it's been a joy to watch her mature into a lovely woman. Her young man, Jacob, seems a perfect match. The wedding was beautiful and everything went off without a hitch.

Bottom line: I survived and everything is on track for the "Thanksgiving in Texas" Trip. Popcorn deliveries have been made; I have rolled out my pie crusts and stored them in a pizza box; the cranberries have been ground and mixed with sugar for the salad; and crescent-roll dry ingredients and butter have been

blended. I even measured spices into a baggie for the pumpkin pie. Talk about being ready.

Some of my Facebook friends have started a daily "What I'm Thankful For" list leading up to Thanksgiving. It's not their cars, clothes or bank accounts they are thankful for — it's their families and friends, it's beautiful sunsets, it's a baby's laugh, it's their spouse's smile. Yes, we have much to be thankful for.

I wish you and yours a wonderful, bountiful, flavorful Thanksgiving.

From the Bible

I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ: That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge. Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. — *1 Corinthians 1: 4-8*

Group backs recreation tax

To the Editor:
By now, many people have heard or read about the efforts of a group to establish a Recreation Commission for Decatur County.

Our group started back in February 2010 at a community conversation held at the Golden Age Center to listen to a group from Greeley County that had started from scratch what is now a very successful recreation program. From that meeting, a group was formed and began researching many options on how to bring a part of what they have done to our own county.

Wanting to keep it simple, we researched joint efforts with the city, county and school district, along with running an independent group. Each time we thought we had it figured out, legal issues and technicalities came into play. Finally, after addressing the City Council, County Commission and school board, it seemed clear that the best way to get this going was to

Letter to the Editor

follow the state law and form a legal Recreation Commission. You may ask, why do we need a recreation commission? Many of us are long-time county residents and have seen the need not only for quality youth recreation, but recreation for all residents. We need activities that will bring our communities closer together, as well as interaction with our young people and older citizens.

We believe that all would benefit with an organization that can centralize, promote and manage these activities and give the residents of Decatur County a source for event information. We believe that we have the resources that can be used for events and gatherings that will support social interaction.

By Wednesday, all registered voters in the Oberlin School District

will receive ballots that will allow you to vote to approve or disapprove the creation of a Recreation Commission for all Decatur County. Ballots must be returned to the Decatur County clerk's office by noon Tuesday, Dec. 13.

We would appreciate your vote of approval and urge anyone with any questions to contact any of the people below. As a group, we are committed to providing quality recreation and leisure programs to all the residents of Decatur County.

Greg Grafel, Deanna Castle, Terry Ream, Deb Klima, Jeni Henningson, Rusty Addleman, Alexis Hissong, Tyler Bruggeman, Channing Fortin for the Decatur County Recreation Commission

Honor Roll

Welcome and thanks to these recent subscribers to *The Oberlin Herald*:
Elsewhere: Carol Weld, Bedford, N.Y.; Robert O'Grady, New York; Mary DenDooven, Naples, Fla.; Anne O'Grady Curtin, Washington; Mary Groneweg, Lakewood, Colo.
Kansas: Grace Reeves, Enid Foland, Almena; Stacy Hartzog,

Olathe; Marlene Magill, Lenexa; Andrew Dempewolf, Hays; Billie Woodward, Manhattan; Michael Ayers, Lansing; Kim Franklin, Atwood; Marjorie Missing, Wichita; Wayne Bosler, Herndon; Amy Dodson, Abilene; Dr. Jerry Thomsen, Clay Center; Amy Osborne, Overland Park.
Nebraska: Richard Nichols, Lebanon; Lloyd Myers, Roxie Tuller,

Yvonne Houghtelling, McCook.
Selden: Renee Lewis, David Juenemann.
Jennings: Lloyd Ramsey, McKenna Appraisal Service.
Oberlin: Jackie Votapka, D. Hanschild, Rusty Addleman, Marilou Long, Peggy Groneweg, Dan Schissler, Mike Fordham, Robin Williamson, Robert Hessenflow, Loyd Moore.

THE OBERLIN HERALD

Serving Oberlin and Decatur County since 1879

USPS 401-600

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243

Phone: (785) 475-2206 Fax (785) 475-2800
E-mail: oberlin.herald@nwkansan.com

Published each Wednesday by Haynes Publishing Co., 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749. Periodicals postage paid at Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Nor'West Newspapers

STAFF

Steve Haynes editor
Kimberly Davis managing editor
Mary Lou Olson society editor
Carolyn Kelley-Plotts proofreader, columnist
Joan Betts historian
Cynthia Haynes business manager
Pat Cozad want ads/circulation
Tim Davis advertising representative
Crista Sauvage advertising makeup

Steve and Cynthia Haynes, publishers
Kimberly Davis, assistant publisher

Official newspaper of Oberlin, Jennings, Norcat, Dresden and Decatur County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association, Nebraska Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year, \$38 (tax included) in Decatur, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Thomas and Red Willow counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$50-\$250 (in U.S. dollars only) extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243.

