

Postal dealing 'unfair'

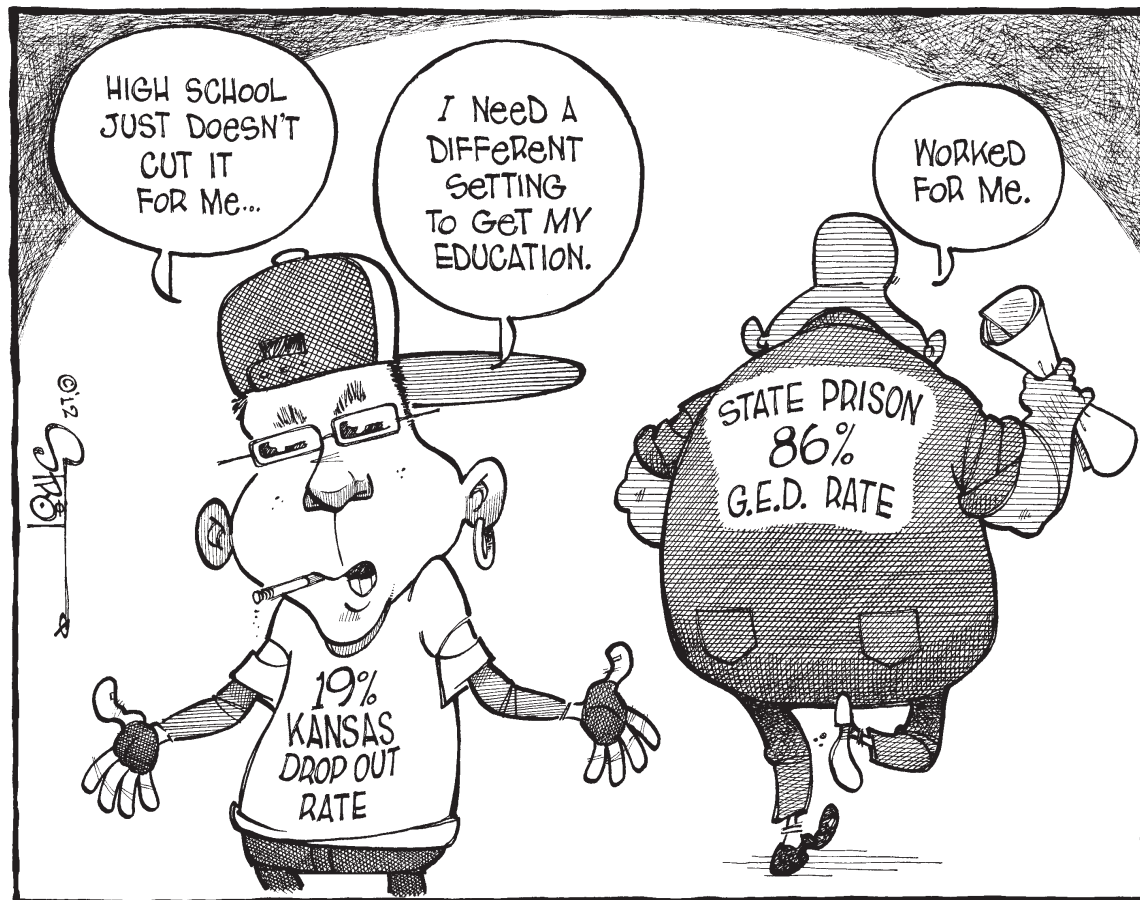
Special cost breaks leave field unlevel

By ROB HICKS

National Newspaper Association Small-town retailers face yet another competitive hurdle, thanks to a new deal penned by the United States Postal Service.

No, not the good folks at our post office; this threat comes straight out of Washington.

The Postal Regulatory Commission recently approved a multi-million-dollar deal granting deep



Opinion

discounts to Valassis, one of the nation's largest direct-mail marketers.

This deal will allow national advertisers to force-mail their advertising flyers at steep discounts that no other postal customer can get.

Nationally, this deal will hurt many big-city newspapers across the country at a time when these newspapers are already under extreme economic pressure.

And, in the interest of full disclosure, it could also have a slight negative impact on this newspaper, as national chain-store advertising makes up a small percentage of our annual sales. The fact that our prices for inserting advertising flyers are lower than the discount rates given to Valassis will also limit any negative impact from this deal.

However, the impact on independent Main Street retailers that cannot qualify for these discounts is far more chilling. National chains will have a distinct advertising advantage over Main Street retailers that just isn't fair.

Don't think this will affect us? Think again.

Stores like Raye's Grocery, Stanley Hardware and Dale's Fish 'n' Fun work hard to compete against national chains like Wal-Mart, Home Depot and Cabela's. They already provide better customer service, pay city and county taxes and donate to our charities in an effort to distinguish themselves from their national chain competitors.

Now, in an attempt to reconcile its staggering losses, the Postal Service is going to help national chains compete against our downtown merchants.

And that, quite honestly, just isn't fair.

We certainly understand the dilemma that the Postal Service faces. It has run up losses of over \$11 billion in the first three quarters of the current fiscal year. But under the best-case scenario, this new scheme with Valassis is only expected to bring in a paltry \$15.6 million in profits during a three-year contract.

At what cost? No one knows, exactly. But the damage to local economies could be far more than the benefit to the Postal Service under these bargain rates.

Bottom line: It is not the Postal Service's job to choose winners and losers in an already tough economic environment.

Rob Hicks is publisher of the Buffalo Bulletin in Wyoming and principal stockholder of Frontier Newspapers, which owns publications across the West and Midwest.

Families needed for children

In many columns, I discuss how today's decisions impact the next generation. But the decisions that are made in the voting booth or in the halls of Congress pale in comparison to the decision of a family to adopt a child.

The willingness of men and women to use the blessing of their family to become dads and moms for children in need is an amazing sacrifice — as well as a sign of commitment to the most vulnerable and defenseless members of the next generation.

Although there are so many threats to the family as the foundation of society, the family still remains the most influential force in a child's life. Children in homes with actively involved parents are less likely to engage in risky behavior, more likely to do well in school (and ultimately professionally) and more socially well-adjusted. These factors all have major implications for public policy. It is an investment in society to ensure that all children have loving, caring and engaged moms and dads.

November is National Adoption Month, and my wife Angela and I encourage all Kansans who have felt called to adoption to act. The number of finalized adoptions in Kansas has grown in the past two years: from 721 in fiscal year 2010 to 761 in 2011 and 777 in 2012. While the state provides help for families to bring children into their homes, hundreds of children remain in the Kansas foster care system without "forever families." Many lack a



On the Potomac

By Rep. Tim Huelskamp
tim.huelskamp@mail.house.gov

relative able to adopt them.

We have been blessed with the opportunity to adopt four children, two from America and two from Haiti. We are a testament to the fact that you do not have to be wealthy or have a special education or background to provide a child a home. All you need is the willingness to answer the call and a desire and commitment to provide a loving and nurturing environment for a child in need.

We have also been blessed with the opportunity to meet other families that have opened their homes to adoption. In September, we awarded the Meyer family of Salina the Congressional "Angels in Adoption" award. Twenty-five years ago, they never could have imagined having more than two children. But they followed their hearts and have adopted eight, several of whom have special needs. They have served as foster parents to many other kids. In their humility, the Meyers will admit they are not perfect, but to their credit, they are in the eyes of their children.

Oftentimes a child enters the foster care system when a judge

decides that his or her parents are unfit to care for them. But there are many birthparents out there who decide — often before a child is even born — to put their baby up for adoption. What a tremendous and beautiful sacrifice it is to put your child with a "forever family." There are many paths by which a child can join an adoptive parents' home, and we encourage Kansans to explore all options.

We know not every family can or is called to serve as an adoptive family, but there are things all can do to provide community for those families that do. There are nearly four dozen instances in the Bible of God calling on us to take care of widows and children. This is not a call to cede that responsibility to the government; no, this is a call for us to act personally for and with our neighbors.

For information about how your family can help a child in need, go to www.adoptkiskids.org.

Tim Huelskamp of Fowler represents the 1st Congressional District of Kansas.

Senator says thanks to his voters

To the Editor:

To supporters and fellow citizens of the 40th and 36th Districts:

My wife Ellen and I would like to thank you for your support to our campaign efforts. This was a steep uphill battle from the very beginning, having lost 9 of the 10 counties I represented the last two years and then gaining 12 new counties.

I count it a great privilege and an opportunity of a lifetime to have served in the Kansas Senate for two years to further our rural and Western Kansas interests. In the end we gave the people a choice and that is important to a democracy. I will continue my service in other ways.

Of the things we accomplished, the most important by far was saving the 36th District Senate seat until the next census in 2020. That vote remains in rural Kansas, where it belongs! Hopefully we will be able to retain that seat after 2020,

Letter to the Editor

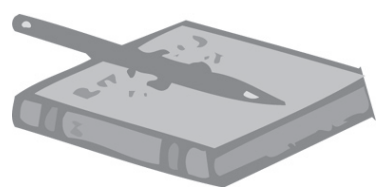
but only if we have a group of rural legislators who can work together alongside our community leaders in a nonpartisan way to grow our rural economy, keep our schools open and strong and build affordable housing for economic expansion.

The challenges in our rural future are great. It takes more than simply voting on legislation. It takes vision and "targeted engagement" toward our rural interests to impact our future and stop the population loss. My 32 years of leadership in the Army prepared me well for this and taught me the importance of living the values of duty, honor, integrity and selfless service as I listened, analyzed and then exercised leadership. I was prepared to continue, but I will pursue other forms of service

now. Sen. (Ralph) Ostmeyer will continue to carry the torch for us in Topeka. I congratulate him on his victory.

My deep-hearted appreciation goes out to the great people and communities of northwest and north central Kansas. May we always acknowledge God being with us on this journey. That mind-set will keep us humble, genuine and faithful to our rural core values.

Sen. Allen and Ellen Schmidt and family, Hays



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QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF

Jean Ann Hale, County Treasurer of Decatur County, Kansas, Showing Balance on hand for the Quarter ending October 31, 2012

FUND		Senior Citizens	
County General	889,016.12	13,776.23	
SW Bell Rural 911	12,682.95	Employee WH	33,346.27
Wireless E-911	24,719.91	Cafeteria 125	25,706.44
Sp Prosecutor's Tr Fund	3,939.08	Sp Alcohol Program	8,211.50
Recycling	4,479.97	Special Park & Rec	2,405.07
Landfill	2,845.56	Summer Rec	720.45
Road & Bridge	480,818.02	Public Trans	2,711.87
Special Bridge	95,134.41	Special Jail Equip	5,436.41
Home for Aged	31,461.79	PATF	915.94
Fair Premium	23.11	Sp Fire Equip	91,828.27
Fair Maintenance	232.64	Bond & Interest	60,612.74
Conservation District	5,229.36	Museum Fund	140.92
County Health Nurse	35,937.11	RFD Memorial	23,687.85
Noxious Weed Sp Eq	17,959.00	Economic Devel	1,436.81
Mental Health	545.38	CORE	1,873.28
Mental Retardation	583.95	RFD	28,674.08
Ambulance Memorial	3,148.42	Bad Check Trust Fund	2,694.89
Ambulance	225,725.06	Oil and Gas Dep	167,329.35
Co Health Sp Equip	22,343.00	History Books	1,879.00
Noxious Weed	36,920.50	Advance Tax	1,789.83
Special Road Mach	100,368.25	Motor Vehicle Tax	30,546.00
Election	31,606.36	Good Sam Mem. Prin	559,662.87
Ambulance Sp Equip	72,755.94	Treasurer Special Auto	5,783.01
Deeds Tech. Fund	12,215.98	Motor Vehicle License	2,704.00
Employee Benefit	580,917.36	Sales Tax	35,526.97
Equip. Reserve	108,077.37	RV Tax	646.72
Juvenile Detention	2,710.00	Partial Pay	7,026.34
Conceal & Carry	453.37	Redemp. & Assign	4,118.95
Summer Rec. Mem	3,087.50	Suspense Acct.	12,345.29
Escrow	308.96	Total	3,939,783.78

TOWNSHIP OR CITY	GEN'L Revenue	Road	SP Road	S.Waste
Allison		292.42		
Altory		253.01		
Bassettville	0.24	21,700.10	59,778.78	
Beaver		252.32		
Center		268.22		
Cook		279.28		
Custer		243.33		840.00
Dresden		281.36		
Finley		8,616.77		
Garfield		306.24		
Grant		273.06		
Harlan		321.45		
Jennings		322.83		
Liberty		301.40		
Lincoln		302.09		
Logan		2,690.19		
Lyon		343.57		
Oberlin		14,614.34	6,155.95	
Olive		14,276.49		
PI Balley		344.26		
Prairie Dog		283.43		
Roosevelt		248.17		
Sappa		219.14		
Sherman		1,6869.52		
Summit		7,344.03		
TOTAL	0.24	76,064.02	65,934.73	840.00

CEMETERY	
Dresden	16.65
Hawkeye	36.01
Kanona	0.50
TOTAL	53.16

FUND	
County Funds	3,939,783.78
Township Funds	142,838.99
Cemetery Funds	53.16
TOTAL	4,082,675.93

CASH:	
Investments	1,745,072.08
The Bank Oberlin	863,610.17
Cash	625.00
The Bank MM	263,980.59
The Bank OB. MM	251,710.41
FNB Wireless E911	24,719.80
Farmers Bk & Tr.	818,367.09
TB MM-Good Sam Mem	114,590.79
TOTAL	4,082,675.93

State of Kansas, Decatur County, ss
I, Jean Ann Hale, Treasurer of DECATUR County, Kansas, do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief. SO HELP ME GOD. Jean Ann Hale, County Treasurer
I HEREBY CERTIFY, That the foregoing statement was subscribed and sworn to before me, and in my presence, by the above named, this 8th day of November, 2012. Colleen Geihlsler, County Clerk

