



In the U.S.A.

“The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn’t get worse every time Congress meets.”

– Will Rogers
Nov. 4, 1879 - Aug. 5, 1935
Actor and humorist

From the Bible

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”

– I Corinthians 1:18-19

Foreign money can’t seem to get spent

You could call this column an update on finances and felines.

Does anyone remember the euros I gave to oldest daughter and son-in-law for Christmas and Hanukkah?

I gave \$200 in euros to the children because they were planning a trip to England. It was only later that I learned that they still use pounds in England, but the kids didn’t get to go on the trip anyway. Talk about your star-crossed gifts.

Then I learned last week that the story has a second chapter, even weirder than the first.

One of the reasons the kids didn’t go to England is Nik’s sister, who lives there, was planning to come over here at the same time, which she did.

After she went back home, her mother Julie decided to go visit her in England and they both went to France. Thinking this was a great opportunity to get the foreign money spent, Felicia sent Julie the euros by Priority Mail.

The in-laws live on the coast of



Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes
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Georgia about three hours from Augusta, where the kids live. It should have taken that package one, maybe two days to get to them.

However, Julie left the country before that piece of mail arrived. In fact, it took five weeks for the euros to travel a few dozen miles down the Savannah River. Nik’s mom was back home by the time it got there.

Oldest daughter just shakes her head, but her younger sister says that it’s a sign. Terrible things will happen if anyone ever tries to spend that money, she says.

Well, at this rate, we’re all pretty

safe.

The second story this week involves Molly Monster, our hard-headed cat.

When she was young, Molly found out that while the pet door only allowed cats to exit the house, the laundry vent was big enough for her to crawl back in through.

It took Steve and me a long time to figure out why the laundry hose kept getting unhooked from the vent and the basement kept getting showered with lint. Or who let the kitten back in?

Then one day, Molly ate a little too much for lunch and got stuck in

the vent. We had to call the vet over to extricate her. She never tried getting back into the house through that particular “door” again.

This last week, however, she started showing up when neither of us remembered letting her back in the house. Then we noticed it was cold, really cold, in the kitchen.

After some investigation, we discovered that she had forced open a basement window that doesn’t latch well. She was getting us to let her out or using the pet door, then coming back in through the window.

That cat is too smart for her own good.

The window is now closed and has a large cookbook and two bricks against it. So far, that has been enough to keep the cat from using her new entry. But, where will she strike next?

Will the euros ever get spent? Will the cat find another way into the house?

Stay tuned for the next installment of “Finances and Felines.”

State looks at eliminating income tax

Last session, the largest tax cut in state history was signed into law.

The bill dropped the top state income tax rate from 6.45 percent to 4.9 and the low rate from 3.5 percent to 3. Until last session, Kansas had the highest rates of any surrounding state. The plan might be working, as there were 1,500 more business filings in 2012 than in 2011 – and surrounding states, such as Nebraska, are scrambling to lower rates to remain competitive with Kansas.

This year, the governor has called on the Legislature to cut income taxes further to glide to a zero state income tax rate. The latest proposal is to drop the top rate from 4.9 percent to 3.5 percent by 2017. The bottom rate would be dropped to 2.5 percent in 2014 and then to 1.9 percent in 2016.

Rather than expanding govern-



Letter from Topeka

By State Rep. Ward Cassidy
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ment, the governor has asked that any revenue that comes in above 4 percent during this time be used to buy down the tax liability of Kansans. His plan would leave the current sales tax rate in place and eliminate the state deduction for home-mortgage interest.

Although the home-mortgage deduction would be eliminated, the deduction for charitable contributions and the earned-income credit, used by lower-income people, would stay

in place. I received countless e-mails to keep the earned-income credit in place when it was being considered for elimination last year.

Seventy percent of Kansans do not claim the home-mortgage deduction; instead, they claim the head of household deduction of \$9,000. Most taxpayers do fall under the standard deduction. The federal mortgage-interest deduction will still be available.

There are still many questions,

and the top one might be, how do we replace the revenue if the sales tax does come off?

A two-year budget plan also is being proposed by the governor. I personally like this proposal, as it will allow the state more time to heal from the recession and to plan for the future.

What has been dropped in this year’s tax plan proposal was elimination of the state individual income tax deduction on property taxes paid on homes. This deduction would be worth \$68.5 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

What happens next? There will be a tax plan from the governor, a House tax plan and a Senate tax plan. There will be agreement and disagreement, and in the end we will see the amount of revenue we have to work with.

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What does **Self-Regulation** mean to
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Join us for an informational meeting to learn the facts.

Great Bend

Tuesday, March 26 @ 6:30 pm
Barton Community College
245 NE 30 Rd
Fine Arts Building, Room F30

Colby

Thursday, March 28 @ 6:30 pm
Colby Community College
1255 S. Range Ave.
Student Union, Room 108

Scott City

Tuesday, April 2 @ 6:30 pm
Scott County Library
110 W. 8th St.

Hays

Thursday, April 4 @ 6:30 pm
Fort Hays State University
Robbins Center
One Tiger Place



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The Oberlin Herald encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan., 67749, or by e-mail

to oberlinherald@nwkansas.com.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted

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Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

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- Number of Beds - 25 as Critical Access Hospital.
- Revenue 2012 - \$38,425,000.
- Net Income 2012 - \$530,387.
- Tax Support - None; operated as a private, nonprofit hospital.
- Doctors - three active physicians, four nurse practitioners, three physician assistants, one certified registered nurse anesthetist, 29 consulting physicians.
- Administrator - Kevan Trenkle.
- Phone - (785) 462-7511.

SCHC

The Road to Wellness in Northwest Kansas

SHERIDAN COUNTY HEALTH COMPLEX

“The Road to Wellness in Northwest Kansas”

- Beds - 18 as Critical Access Hospital, 35 long-term nursing, eight assisted living apartments.
- Revenue 2012- \$6.5+ million. Fiscal report not available until March 1.
- Profit 2012 - Expected 6.1 percent profit margin. Have had positive profit margins since 2005.
- County money - \$936,312.
- Doctors - Cooperative agreement with Bluestem Medical in Quinter, Dr. Brewster Kellogg of Colby as chief of staff, one nurse practitioner and one physician assistant.
- Administrator - Steve Granzow.
- Phone - (785) 675-3281.