



Administration should admit failure in Libya

The jury is out yet on Monday's presidential debate, but whatever was said – and whatever else voters hear about foreign policy – we need to do something to restore some basic honesty to the discussion.

For its own reasons, whatever they may be, the Obama administration tried to paint the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi which killed Ambassador Christopher Stevens as the result on an out-of-control demonstration. Even during the vice presidential debate, Joe Biden persisted in trying to blame the intelligence community for this lie.

Anyone who watched the news the night of the attack knew this was not the result of a demonstration aimed at the U.S. in retaliation for an anti-Muslim video. It was apparent from reports available to the world even then that a coordinated attack by trained forces had overwhelmed the consulate.

The administration, from the president to Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, tried to make us believe otherwise. The world was not buying it. Then the vice president tried to blame the CIA and the rest of the intelligence service. The secretary of state did the same.

One of two things: either they were taken in by false reports, or the intelligence they get is so bad they deserve to be defeated and thrown out of office.

Now on the defensive, the administration has taken to accusing Republicans of "playing politics" with the deaths of three Americans, including the ambassador. What, we wonder, were they playing when they tried to convince us this was some innocent, spontaneous demonstration gone awry?

As opposition parties want to do, the Republicans are threatening to investigate. By the time Congress gets around to it, though, it'll be a post-mortem: the elections will be over.

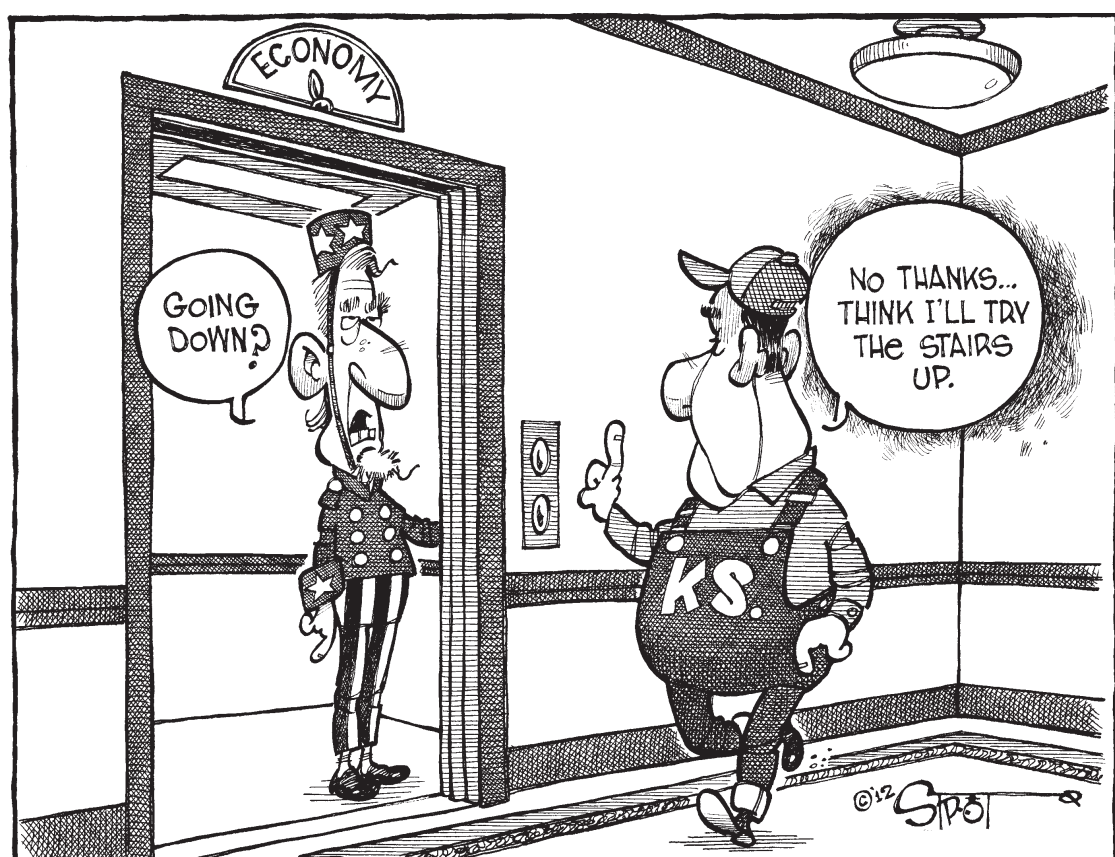
To be sure, mistakes were made. The ambassador was staying at a location that, apparently, was far from secure, even though Libya is not exactly a stable location. A consulate, unlike an embassy, is not a fortress. It wouldn't have been designed to withstand a military attack.

Requests to Washington to beef up security were ignored, it seems. Now it is too late to do anything, too late certainly for those who died. Too late to save the truth.

Then Mrs. Clinton tells us she will take the blame, though as secretary of state, she obviously wouldn't have known about the security conditions. She said that, by the way, during an appearance in Peru.

Let the investigation roll. We'll find out what happened soon enough, but well after the voters have spoken.

— Steve Haynes



Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



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Christmas tree

One of the trees we had planted about 5 years ago just fell over late this summer. We had problems with it from early on but we put braces on it when it leaned one way and the next year we put on more so it would grow straight up. Still when winter was over it started leaning to the east. We were out of rubber braces so Kurt drove a metal post into the ground and we put an old towel around the tree and wired it to the post.

Finally it bit the dust and it was a beautiful color, shape and everything but saving it was impossible. Kurt mentions that maybe we could use it for a Christmas tree this year. That reminded me of the last time we had a real tree for Christmas.

When both my parents were ill and needed care I lived with them as the caregiver. I would come home once in a while on the weekends. Near Christmas that year I asked Kurt if we could have a real Christmas tree and he reminded me how the last time we had tried that we had plugged our vacuum cleaner so many times trying to pick up all the needles. In fact we even had to buy a new one.

Wanted a special Christmas. I told him I had read of a mixture that you put in the bucket with the tree. It would make your tree last for a month to six weeks and the tree would not lose their needles or get dry.

The next time I was home there was a Christmas tree ready to put up. I hurried up and found the ingredients as Kurt put the sand and beautiful tree in a bucket. I really don't remember all that went in that recipe but I know it had corn syrup, canned milk and a couple of other things.

After getting the tree ready Kurt and I decorated it and I might say it was picture perfect. The next day I went back to town and I wasn't

able to come home again for a couple of weeks, or maybe three.

When I did get home I walked into the house and the smell was unreal. Immediately I took out all the trash, looked in every corner for a dish with rotten food, which I didn't find, but when I asked Kurt about it he couldn't smell anything. I thought maybe it was that I was used to rubbing alcohol, deep heat and any other older-sick-people things.

The next week I got home again and I gagged, and Kurt said he smelled something also but he

couldn't find it. It was about that time I entered our living room and by the tree it almost knock me over.

The tree left the house, the artificial tree went up and that was the last time I wanted a real tree in my house.

So when Kurt wanted to save this tree for 4 or 5 months, I just had to remind him of the last one we had and the tree went on the trailer to be hauled off.

Photo Policy

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or new happening that we should attend, please call 332-3162.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event. Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear in-

structions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

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Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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About a week ago, Australian Felix Baumgartner made headlines by parachuting from 24 miles above Earth. In the process, the skydiver broke the sound barrier.

Not to take away from Baumgartner's incredible feat, but on that same day another daredevil moved at the speed of sound to mark an anniversary.

Chuck Yeager travelled the same skies as 65 years ago when the rocket plane named Bell X-1 created the first sonic boom. The 89-year-old retired Air Force Brigadier General

flew in a F-15 jet this time from Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. The flight headed to the California Mojave Desert, site of his record breaking flight on Oct. 14, 1947.

At 10:24 a.m. the F-15 broke the sound barrier over Muroc Dry Lake, 65 days to the minute of Yeager's historic journey into the record books.

Although Yeager flew the jet at take off and landing, the craft was also piloted by Captain David Vincent of the 65th Aggressor Squadron out of Nellis. The retired test pi-

lot continues to fly and has manned over 350 different kinds of planes over the years.

I don't know how many times I watched the movie, "The Right Stuff," or the impression left from seeing his X-1 at the Smithsonian Institute at our capitol, but there is something special about men like Chuck Yeager. I'm sure glad he's one of us.

Reader reminded city pool needs lift for those with disabilities

Dear Editor, October is National Disabilities Awareness Month. When I was told this, two thoughts came to mind: my niece Christina and a lift to be used at the swimming pool.

Christina is 21 years old and lives in Denver. She was born with Downs Syndrome. Initially there was some shock and sorrow at the news, but my brother was told by a wise doctor that they were in for a treat raising this girl. The doctor was right. My brother and his wife have been wonderful parents for Christina. Her sisters have been a huge support as well. My extended family may have disagreements over politics, religion, professional football teams, or who makes the best chili, etc, but we all agree that Christina has added a very positive dimension to our lives that we would otherwise not have known.

My first thought when the city/pool board was told that a lift was needed for the pool to comply with the American with Disabilities Act, I wasn't happy. I thought that nobody was going to use this apparatus that allows for easier entrance to the pool and it was going to cost a lot of money. And we didn't bud-

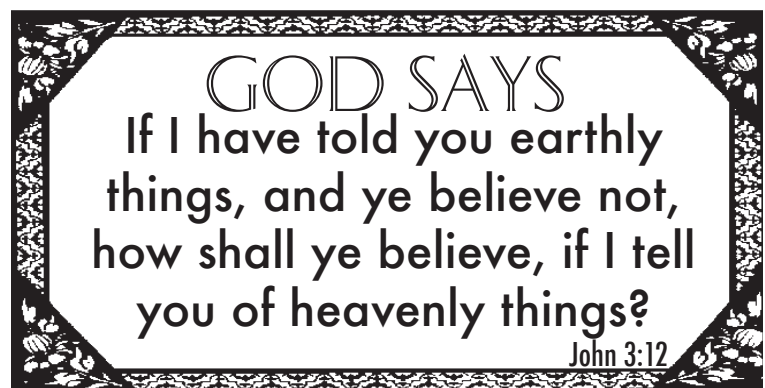
Letter to the Editor

get for this piece of equipment. For those who know me, that becomes an issue. After some time to think and reflect though, I had a change of heart. I personalized the mandate. What if the person needing the lift to enter the pool was one of my children? What if the person needing the lift was a friend of mine? Or me? Wouldn't I appreciate efforts of others to make it possible for me, or those close to me to enjoy the water on a hot day?

As I think about those who may be experiencing disabilities of some sort, I ask myself what are some things I could do to lessen their bur-

den? Personalizing their situation is one thing. I can put myself in their shoes and imagine what their life is like with the struggles and obstacles they may face. I can be more cognizant of those in need and maybe do something to meet a need. I can recognize that they have value as human beings and are loved by God and by other individuals. I can be aware of those with disabilities and their needs 12 months of the year and not just October. I can... care.

Bruce Swihart, Cheyenne County Kansans for Life



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