



Shutdown drama no government fix

Whew!
The government didn’t shut down.
Some say that’s too bad. Especially the “tea party” bunch.
But those people didn’t include the military wives who were freezing food in case their husbands didn’t get paid later this month because of the feared shutdown.
Nor the great mass of Americans whose stock holdings and other investments might have plunged. The millions of federal workers who would have missed paychecks, only to be paid later for time they didn’t work. The workers in “critical” jobs who’d have had to work despite the lack of a check.
No, the Republican party did the right thing when it settled for \$38.5 billion in cuts from this year’s budget, rather than demanding the full \$60 billion it had asked for.
For one thing, the GOP lost ground in the Clinton era when it forced a shutdown. The Republicans had the upper hand, but people didn’t like to see their government embarrassed.

There would have been no gain for the GOP from a shutdown this year, either, no matter what the hard liners think. There’d have been plenty of blame to go around, but the Republicans would have been painted as the bad guys.

If the deal stands, and Congress goes ahead and passes a budget for the current year, budget cutters will face a far bigger task. Republicans are projecting a need to cut \$6 trillion over the next decade, about \$600 billion a year, from the budget.

To do that will require skill and compromise. The vast military budget will have to be part of the discussion, and Republicans have a hard time cutting that. Otherwise, the cuts would have to come mostly from “discretionary” programs, and there’s not enough money there to cut \$600 billion a year.

Worse yet, the deficit is running more than twice that amount, about \$1.3 trillion per year. To balance the budget is going to take two things: some really deep cuts, and a return to prosperity that will refill the federal treasury.

Prosperity produced big surpluses in the Clinton era, for which the Democrats took credit. Bad times are producing big deficits today, deficits made much worse by unrestrained “stimulus” spending.

Now, it’s time to pay the bill for all this borrowing. And with the national debt at \$13.2 trillion today, no one is even talking about paying it off, or even putting an end to borrowing. Right now, it’s enough to talk about slowing the increase.

Shut down the government?
It won’t save any money or reduce the debt. Most of us might not miss it much, but there are those who would be hurt through no fault of their own.

The best course lies in learning to work together in Washington to do what has to be done, without partisan wrangling or showmanship. That’s a lot to ask, of course, but it’s what we need.

Then, a united nation could focus on the future deficits and a plan to pay down the debt. It has to happen someday, and with work and cooperation, we just might be able to pull off a reform before financial collapse overtakes us.

– Steve Haynes

We encourage comments on opinions expressed on this page. Mail them to the *Colby Free Press*, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701, or e-mail colby.editor @ nwkansas.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the *Free Press*, its staff or the owners.

COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth St. (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963
Colby, Kan. 67701 fax (785) 462-7749

Send news to: colby.editor @ nwkansas.com

State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout, Columns, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography. Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

Steve Haynes - Publisher
s.haynes @ nwkansas.com

NEWS

Kevin Bottrell - News Editor
kbottrell @ nwkansas.com

Sports
colby.sports @ nwkansas.com

Marian Ballard - Copy Editor
mballard @ nwkansas.com

Shelby Pulkrabek - Society Reporter
colby.society @ nwkansas.com

ADVERTISING
colby.ads @ nwkansas.com

Andrea Bowers, Kathryn Ballard
Advertising Representatives
abowers @ nwkansas.com kballard @ nwkansas.com

Kylee Hunter - Graphic Design
khunter @ nwkansas.com

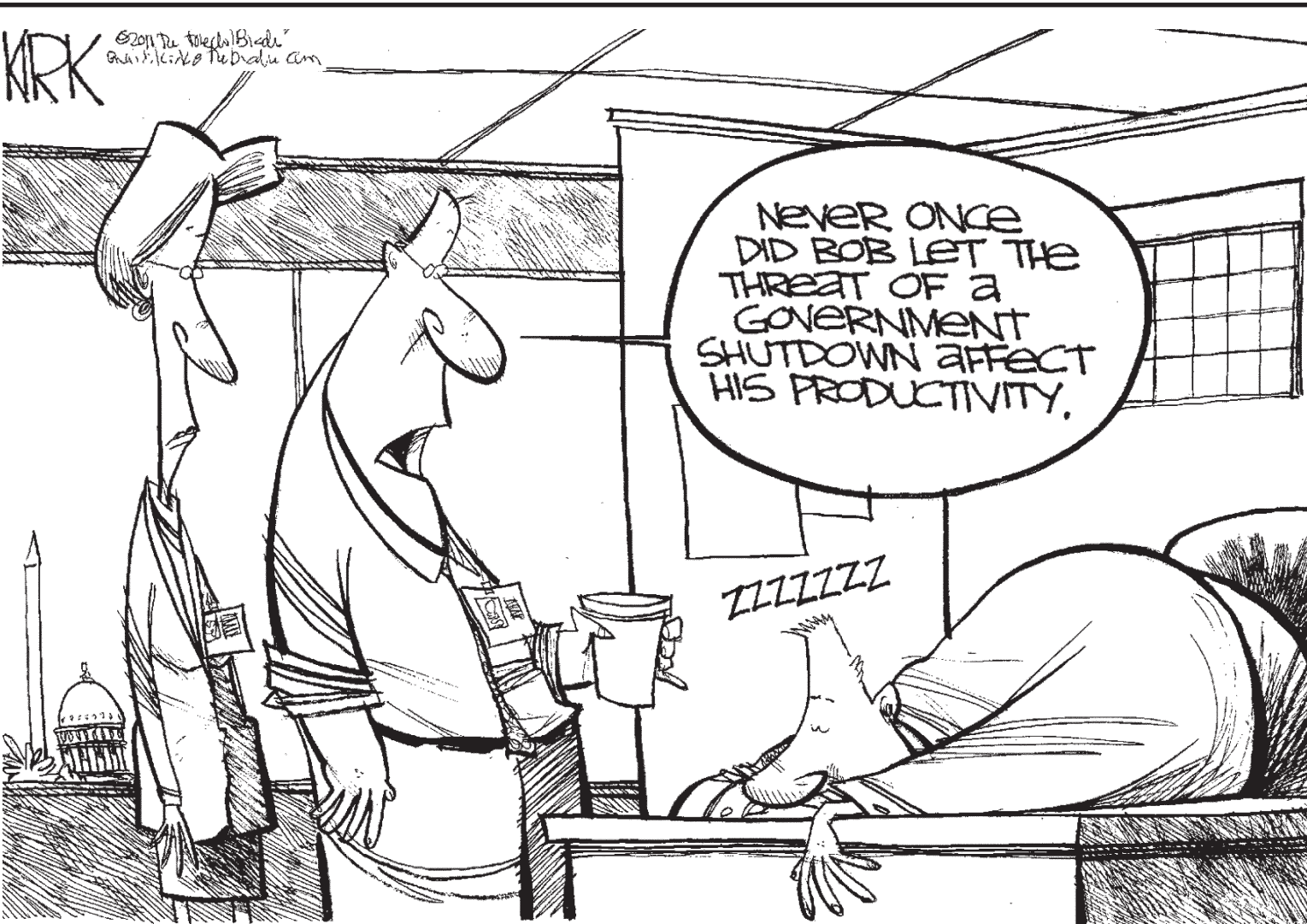
BUSINESS OFFICE

Robin Tubbs - Office Manager
rtubbs @ nwkansas.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support @ nwkansas.com

NOR’WEST PRESS

Richard Westfahl - General Manager
Lana Westfahl, Jim Jackson, Betty Morris, Jim Bowker, Judy McKnight, Kris McCool



Work all day, then work all night

I spent all night working on a special project. So why isn’t it done?
‘Cause I did it in my sleep.
I really hate it when that happens.

Couldn’t my subconscious go skiing, sky diving, motor crossing or some other activity that there is almost no possibility that I will ever voluntarily do?

If I have to work in my sleep, why can’t I do something like design a new kitchen, upgrade my wardrobe or wash the car?

Why do a project that I should have started last week but am still procrastinating on?

This project is a special section the newspaper is doing with several others in the area. It’s a big job and requires contacting and getting information from a lot of people, then putting it all together.

We do the same thing almost every year, and



Cynthia Haynes
• Open Season

every year at the last minute I find that there are several pieces of my puzzle missing. That means getting on the phone and making hurried and harried calls.

I suspect that if I got started earlier, my subconscious might not bug me so – or maybe not.

I remember my mother complaining that when she was redecorating our living room, she spent the entire night wallpapering.

Maybe that’s just the way it is with big projects. When you are in the middle, you can’t seem to escape even in your dreams.

In the meantime, I’m going to need to get this project done, because I’m real tired of fighting it and two cats, who seemed to want to sleep in my space, all night.

I guess, in some ways, I’m lucky. I could have spent the night working in the garden I haven’t gotten planted yet.

Then in the morning, I would have woken up not just tired and cranky, but sore from all that planting and hoeing.

Cynthia Haynes, co-owner and chief financial officer of Nor’West Newspapers, writes this column weekly. Her pets include cats, toads and a praying mantis. Contact her at c.haynes @ nwkansas.com

Cuts need to be bolder

Friday night, the House passed a seventh short-term continuing resolution to fund the government. There is supposed to be a full-year measure on the floor of the House next week.

Due to the fact that this is yet another short-term measure which failed to include many of the provisions Kansans told me were important to them – defunding Obamacare, turning back job-killing EPA regulations, defunding Planned Parenthood – I voted against this measure.

Leadership negotiations continued until just before midnight Friday, and then all Republicans were called together to hear about the plan. I found myself disappointed with the results, and I think you will, too. It is high time that we pass a full-year measure that recognizes Washington has a spending problem. Instead, this short-term bill was just “same ol’, same ol’” for Washington.

While I thought the cuts in the deal – the largest in history – were a good start, they barely make a dent in the unprecedented trillions of dollars of increased spending over the last four years. Three straight years of trillion-



U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp
• Capitol Notes

dollar deficits have left our country \$14.3 trillion in debt.

Because this compromise doesn’t address Obamacare, job-killing EPA regulations and most pro-life issues, it ignores the fundamental reasons I and my fellow freshman members of Congress were sent to Washington in November of last year. As I have traveled across the district and held 36 town hall meetings these past couple of months, Kansans told me these things matter to them. I intend to continue to fight for their positions in Washington.

Earlier this week, I voted for a measure that would have funded our troops for the rest of this year. But the Democrats and Harry Reid in the Senate refused to support it and he President threatened a veto. We received numer-

ous calls in our office from people concerned about our military being paid in the event of a shutdown. That issue still hasn’t been resolved in the short-term measure passed last night.

I don’t believe we can continue to put up with business-as-usual in Washington where politicians use certain groups of our citizens as negotiating tools to push their pet projects and political allies. Unfortunately, we haven’t yet overcome the old ways of doing business in our nation’s capitol with this deal.

This has been a long and arduous road, and I am more than ready to begin the larger task at hand: the 2012 budget and beyond. Republicans have offered a clear alternative to the culture of overspending and overregulation so long embraced in Washington. I look forward to working with my colleagues to charting a new course that will begin to restore the American Dream.

I will keep you updated as to what happens here in the next few days. Until then, thank you for your continued interest.

Tim Huelskamp is the congressman from Kansas’ 1st District, serving his first term.

Care can prevent child abuse

To the Editor:
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. In each town, strengthening families is imperative to protect children from abuse and neglect. Each family can build upon protective factors that will significantly increase the chances of protecting their children.

Research suggests that parents practice five protective factors to buffer against abuse and neglect happening to their children:

Nurturing and Attachment: Building a close bond helps parents understand, respond to and communicate with their children.

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development: Parents learn what to look for at each age and how to help their children reach their full potential.

Parental Resilience: Recognizing the signs of stress and enhancing problem-solving skills can help parents build their capacity to cope.

Social Connections: Parents with an extensive network of family, friends and neighbors have better support in time of need.



Free Press Letter Drop
• Our readers sound off

Concrete Supports for Parents: Caregivers with access to financial, housing, and other concrete resources and services that help them meet their basic needs can better attend to their role as parents.

April is the time for parents and the community to engage in the five protective factors to keep children safe. These can be practiced for a lifetime, and they will be passed down to future generations.

Reach out to people around you and be a role model. Start using these protective factors with family and in your community today.

As an outward sign of your support, I urge you to wear a blue ribbon or pinwheel pin-the symbol of child abuse prevention efforts. If you do not have one, you can get one by contacting Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, 140 W. Fourth St., Colby, Kan. 67701 or (785) 460- 8177.

Paige Campbell, Colby program director

Where to write, call

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: huelskamp.house.gov

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

