

Details still need to be worked out

Many details have yet to be worked out between Northwest Tech in Goodland and Norton, but the official approval for the project was given during last Friday's Northwest Tech board meeting.

Norton City/County Economic Development Director Diane Stiles approached the campus in March to propose the idea of having a satellite campus in Norton. The idea was to support local manufacturers, such as Natoma Corp. and New Age, by offering a manufacturing program.

The idea quickly evolved into having a satellite campus with programs for manufacturing as well as general education courses. The reality is that it will take five to 10 years before Norton will be able to have a fully-accredited campus. The project will start out slowly, by having an outreach center that offers a limited amount of classes.

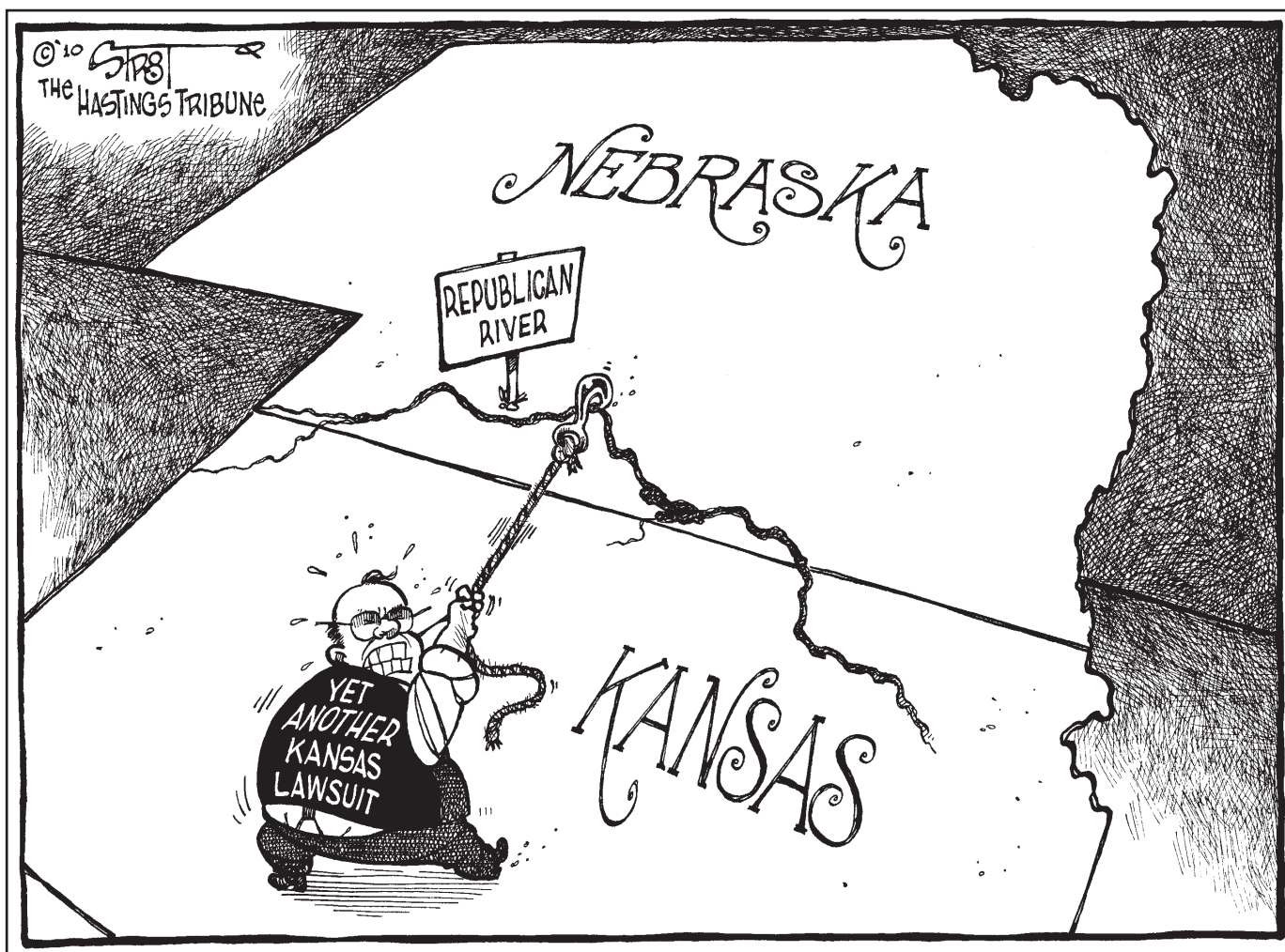
The outreach center will benefit Norton in many ways. It will offer students the opportunity to start taking classes while staying in Norton. These classes will be transferable to other community colleges or universities.

Another added benefit is it provides necessary training to manufacturing employees. Gail Boller, Natoma Corp. president, said he hires local people and spends two years training them. A manufacturing program would give an employee the basic foundation before being hired. Once programs are offered, travel and tourism will be increased. Students will have families visiting them, which means money is put into local hotels, gas stations and restaurants.

The project is just getting started. Small details, like what building will be used, what classes will be offered and when classes will begin, have to be worked out. Instructors are needed, and potential students are needed to fill out the course survey, which will be used to determine which courses will be offered. The survey can be found online, <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JVHJYK7>.

Norton needs to be behind this project. Not only will it bring a business to Norton, but it will support and help retain existing businesses.

—Erica Bradley



Bull breeding soundness

Have you ever wondered whether your bull is doing his job? Do you worry about your cows being bred?

Having a breeding soundness exam performed by your veterinarian will ease your worries, and give you a clear picture of your bull's ability to do his job effectively.

Breeding soundness exams involve inspection of overall health of the bull and assessment of the quality of his semen. The sperm are examined microscopically to determine the percentage of motile sperm and the percentage of sperm with defects.

The sample has to have at least 30 percent motile sperm and 70 percent defect-free sperm to pass the test. At this time, vaccinations for your bulls are also recommended for IBR, BVDV, BRSV, PI3, Vibrio and Leptospirosis.

This will not only protect your bulls, but also the cows they are exposed to. Other commonly used vaccinations for bulls are footrot and pinkeye.

Fly control is also crucial to the health of your bulls. Fly tags and pour-on treatments are commonly applied at this time.

Testing for Trichomoniasis is becoming increasingly important, especially since it is required for shipping across

Vet tips
Dr. Aaron White



transmitted only by breeding.

In herds infected with "Trich" you can expect a long, drawn-out calving season, with a disappointing total calf crop.

In such herds, it is common to end up with a 50-70 percent calf crop, strung out over 3-8 months.

Because "Trich" often gets into a herd via the introduction of one infected animal, especially an infected bull, another scenario is possible. In this case, after the first year, the percentage of pregnant cows may fall from 95 to 90 percent, for example.

In the second year, there may be a further fall to 75 percent or less, making a problem incredibly obvious. A qualified veterinarian can help detect problems in your herd.

Breeding soundness exams for all of your bulls can be a valuable tool in your well-managed herd. Breeding soundness exams are an economical way to protect your valuable investment.

No more sleepless nights wondering whether your bulls are doing their job. Vaccination, fly control and proper testing of your bulls will help ensure that your farm and ranch's cattle herd is performing to the best of their ability.

Please call your veterinarian to discuss your herd health issues at 877-2411.

What is with the weather?

What's with this crazy weather? One minute you're pulling on a warm jacket and the next you're flipping on the air conditioner. The air is so thick with humidity you can "kiss your curls good-bye."

—ob—

With this weird weather came an infestation of a flying insect. I said they were flying ants, Jim was convinced they were termites. We both agreed something had to be done. Sunday morning we were running a little late leaving for church when Jim announced that as soon as we cleared the door he was setting off two "bug bombs." He said the cats were out of the house and all food had been put away.

We were safely in the car when I asked, "So how long before it's safe to go back in?"

"I don't know," said Jim. "The print on the box was too small, so I brought it along. James' eyes are good enough to read that small print."

"So, James. What does it say?"

"Well," he began, and I already knew we were in trouble. "It says here we can go back in after only two hours. But, it also says all pilot lights should be shut off."

I knew a little heating stove and the hot water heater both had pilot lights. "Jim, you've got to go back in and shut off the flames," I insisted.

"We're already late," he said. "And besides, I couldn't hold my breath long enough to get to the basement and shut everything down. Don't worry. It'll be fine." Fine! I was beside myself. All I could envision was coming to a smoking pile of rubble. And, all our family pictures destroyed. I was extra prayerful during worship services but, I admit as soon as I could I called my friend and neighbor, Barbara, to look up the street and see if there were any flames coming from my house. She reported everything was fine and I relaxed. Jim doesn't see me upset

Out Back
Carolyn Plotts



too often. But, let's just say he won't be dropping any more "bombs" without reading the directions first.

—ob—

Judging by the number of dead snakes I've seen on the roads, the weather has confused the wildlife, too. It's like the heat brought them out of hibernation, then, just as they reached the highways, a cold snap stopped them in mid-slitther and the next semi "nailed" them. Don't get me wrong: I have no sympathy for snakes. I think the only good snake is a dead snake. But, it doesn't look like they even had a fighting chance.

—ob—

Because I had not heard from my friend, Galene, I was afraid she was going to call to say she was not coming for Alumni Banquet. I told someone I didn't want to find out she wasn't coming until I could wrangle a few more remodel jobs out of Jim. Am I bad.

I am happy to report the tile job is D-O-N-E... done. And, I love it. It looks perfect. Not all appliances are moved back to their appointed spot, but, that will come. The other good news is that the spare bedroom is now, officially, open for business. The bad news is that my friend really isn't coming. But, she's forgiven. I called and found out she had been hospitalized following a mild heart attack and complications from her diabetes. She's back in her home but, too weak to travel. We agreed 20 years is too long to have not seen each other and have vowed to somehow get together. Life is too short.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654. Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002

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Moderation and variety

Insight
John Schlageck

Consumer skepticism about dietary advice increases daily. Certainly, advice about what to eat or not to eat should be given with extreme care.

Instead, conflicting information about diet and health appears in the news media every week — sometimes every day. With the same regularity as turning over a new leaf on the calendar, it seems that the eating of red meat or too much meat is linked with obesity, cancer or some other calamity.

Because of such misleading information, scare tactics, hype in the headlines, television and social media along with conflicting information about diet and health, there is a risk of consumer confusion and uncertainty. Overwhelming scientific evidence points to a diet of moderation and variety. That includes beef, pork, lamb, turkey — all kinds of meat.

Moderation and variety — a balanced diet includes meat, vegetables, fruits, nuts, breads and dairy products. The key is not to overdo any one of these.

One reason some Americans may be victims of health concerns is not because of the red meat they eat but rather the lack of vegetables, fruits and whole grains in their diet. It is essential to consume all of these food groups.

academic institutions, private research or meat industry labs. Accuracy and credibility are, and will continue to be, reviewed by scientific specialists.

Examining the correlation of diet and different diseases remains an ongoing project. Some of the areas of specific concern include the correlation of diet and cancer, and the correlation between oxidation and heart disease.

The cattle and pork industries continually strive to listen to concerns of consumers and their changing, ever-healthier lifestyles. The livestock industry is working every day to produce leaner, healthier meat products to satisfy today's market. It has learned to respond with products that meet new consumer desires.

Livestock producers also recognize the need to conduct research that provides data on food nutrition and safety. Consumers are hungry for new dietary products, but they also have a ravenous appetite for information supported by facts and science — not myths and misconceptions.

John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.



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