

## Another big project is in the works

Economic Development took on another big project this week by holding an informational meeting for a community owned clothing store. Diane Stiles outlined several options; including a community owned clothing store, a business expansion, an entrepreneur or a chain clothing store.

Any option would take investors, but Economic Development's goal is to have a clothing store in downtown Norton.

Several concerns were voiced. How the store will be supported, what their market would be, ways to draw shoppers from a 90 miles radius and concerns about the cost, which was estimated at \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Norton is a small town, one where retail stores have dwindled over the years. Few options remain, and even though there may be some well-intentioned concern over putting existing stores out of business, the fact is many people are leaving Norton to shop out-of-town.

The reality is that many people in Norton, especially younger shoppers, would prefer to travel to Kearney or Hays to shop. In bigger cities, there is a variety of stores, which gives shoppers more opportunities to shop discounts and chose clothing.

The biggest competition, next to big chain stores, is the Internet.

Stiles listed an excellent example of a scrapbooking store in eastern Kansas, where 80 percent of their business is done through their Web site.

The Internet is not going to go away. Businesses, even businesses in small towns which have been somewhat shielded from the Internet's wrath, are being affected.

Norton should not let an opportunity to begin a new business go, regardless of what obstacles are present. Residents need to make the choice to support local retailers so businesses can succeed.

Norton needs new people, and new businesses, if it is going to prosper. Economic Development has made a lot of progress in growing Norton County. Northwest Tech's outreach center, which is expected to come to downtown Norton this fall, is evidence of that. But it is also up to residents to support the town. Hopefully people will make the decision to support a new business.

—Erica Bradley

## Voicing concern

Sometimes we forget the scene on the national front mimics the scenes played out in state and local governments throughout the country. One aspect of this came to my attention this week when I voiced a concern, during a conversation, about a proposed project impacting an existing business.

As happens repeatedly in national politics, my questions generated 'something' and one elected official decided to put their own spin on it. The result: this person portrayed me as against the project and against economic development as well. To set the record straight, neither is true. Is it easier to label someone as an opponent than to respond? Is control more important than community?

In today's world, some feel if an individual or a group wants more information before issuing a yea or a nay, they are the enemy. What a sadness to feel their information is unsuitable for scrutiny. The very basis of prejudice is ignorance and prejudice is not limited to gender, race or religion. As our nation becomes more and more polarized we also become more and more limited in our thinking.

It has been my experience when someone becomes angry when another doesn't agree, they are probably not as convinced of their stand as their words would imply. Discussing different viewpoints, discovering common ground and hammering out compromises is the sign of a truly thinking nation and of a nation based on those principles on which we were supposedly founded. Trying to control situations by creating drama does little to further any cause and rather than build a

### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



project or a relationship we destroy the very fiber which binds us all together. Let's work together to make things happen, not by trying to have it my way, your way or someone else's way... let's make it our way!

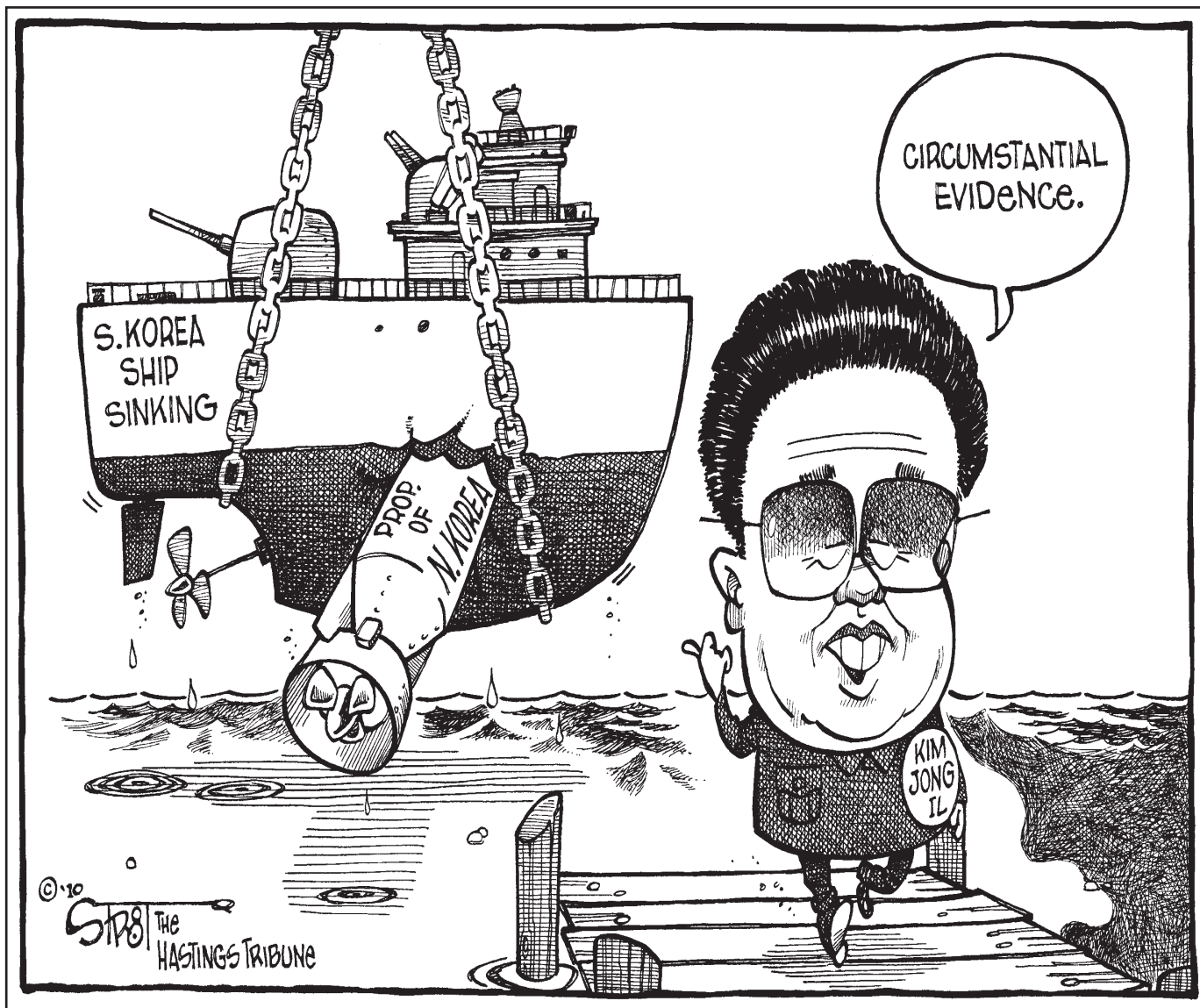
I applaud Diane Stiles for her role in putting together an information session regarding a woman's clothing store. Economic Development is in good hands. Thank you, Diane.

P.S. Last week in my column I said, "no growth advocates were successful in blocking the opportunity to have a community college" (in Norton). I received a call from a gentleman wanting to know the source of my information.

I told him it was the story I had always heard. I have heard it from many sources. He said he served on the committee/council to look into Norton being the college site and they determined Norton did not have the resources to undertake such a project and we had entered the race too late.

The gentleman wishes to remain anonymous, but he said this "not true" story has circulated for years. If my statement was inaccurate, I apologize to those who were involved.

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## Rattlesnake vaccinations explained

Is your precious canine companion protected against rattlesnakes? If not, they should be! Rattlesnake bite is a veterinary emergency that results in serious injury or even death to thousands of dogs each year. Rattlesnake venom is a complex mixture of toxins that spreads quickly and painfully through a dog's body.

Even if your dog survives the immediate effects of a bite there can be permanent damage. Rattlesnake vaccine protects your pet by creating an immunity that works immediately to help neutralize the toxins that were injected by the bite.

Rattlesnakes are found in a variety of habitats, not just in rural areas, but also in populated areas. Rattlesnakes are more active in warmer weather, spring to autumn in Northwest Kansas.

Your dog can encounter a rattlesnake anytime, around the lake while playing and hunting or stumbling over one in your yard. Your pet's natural curiosity or protective instinct places them at risk.

Treatment of rattlesnake bites can be expensive. Depending on the type of snake, location of the bite and amount of venom injected, response to vaccine, length of time since last vaccination, and overall health of your pet, treatment

### Vet tips Dr. Sara White



may include hospitalization, intravenous fluids, supportive therapy and various medications.

Vaccination can reduce the overall effects of snakebite, decreasing treatment costs and hospital time as well. The protocol for prevention includes two initial doses spaced four weeks apart, depending on the size of your dog. Subsequent boosters are recommended annually in the spring, approximately one month before your dog is at risk of serious exposure.

The vaccine works extremely well, stimulating your pet to make protective antibodies that start neutralizing venom immediately.

Vaccinated dogs experience less pain and a reduced risk of permanent injury from a rattlesnake bite. Even if your pet has been vaccinated, a snakebite is always an emergency. Your veterinarian will thoroughly evaluate your dog and

determine if hospitalization and medical treatment is necessary.

Typical vaccination protection for dogs is very good for about six months following boosting, declining slowly over a year or longer.

If your dog will be in an area where rattlesnakes are active for more than six months per year (roughly the southern half of the U.S.), we recommend two annual booster doses given four to six months apart.

If your dog is at particular risk of being bitten by a rattlesnake, you should consider using three boosters per year at four month intervals.

Research suggests that rattlesnake vaccine may actually work better in cats than in dogs, but currently the vaccine is not specifically licensed for use in cats. The vaccine is not formulated for horses, but currently research is underway developing a modified version for horses.

If your dog lives, works or plays where rattlesnakes live, you should consider vaccinating for rattlesnake bites.

Rattlesnake protection will help put you and your dog at ease. Please call us at 877.2411 to make an appointment to protect your pet.

## Getting our noses counted

### Back Home Nancy Hagman



house up in the trees? I agree there is a yellow machine shed, but a one and a half story house? Our homestead is about three acres. I think I would have noticed two other houses!

She points to the old school house (full of someone else's junk!) You can literally see daylight through the roof. The windows are broken, no electricity or water, it may be inhabited but I shutter to think by what! It is sided with tin which is rusty red or brown depending on your eye for color.

This farmstead has been in the hubby's family for 70 some years. No one ever lived in the school house! (Though his mom did attend school in the building when it sat at its original location, which is why we can't tear it down, but that is a whole other rant!)

The third house is supposed to be on the other side of the road the census worker explained. What road? Since our driveway comes in the east and goes out then north someone declared it a road. WOW! Do you suppose the county will maintain it? Never mind, I've seen how the county maintains roads. We are better off on our own.

We couldn't figure that one out, though later I thought it might have been the

shop, which has a storage loft with house type windows. I've jokingly told the hubby he might consider putting a bed out there for a last refuge!

Here's the creepy part: this census worker did not come up with the idea there are three houses on our property. Someone, somewhere spent a great deal of time looking at satellite photos. Long enough to know our house is green, the front of the machine shed is yellow and an old schoolhouse is reddish brown. I wonder how they missed the holes in the roof. If only they had inventoried the contents; I'd have a sale bill made!

I'm rethinking my stance on government intrusion! Giving them the benefit of the doubt maybe they counted the pickup trucks and decided no one household could support that many! (And it can't!)

I'm still confused about why it took so long for someone to count us. My friend Cindy suggested they might have originally hung the sack with the forms on the school house door.

Daughter Elizabeth lives in a lovely basement apartment under some businesses. No satellite photo is ever going to find her. At least it hasn't so far.

In Manhattan the census forms came in the mail; that seems more sensible than personal visits or plastic sacks on doorknobs.

Poor Elizabeth! Will she still exist if they never find her? Can she turn herself in? I should have told them she lives in the school house! She's a teacher, there have been days this was indeed the case!

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