

Prayer in government meeting causes a stir

It's quite remarkable to see a city government start a meeting with a prayer in this day and age. It's not remarkable, however, to see them get challenged on it.

That's what the Wichita City Council spent much of their weekly meeting talking about. The council opens each meeting with an invocation, which has rubbed some groups, especially the local chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the wrong way. They want the tradition stopped.

Public opinion – or at least the opinion of those who took the *Wichita Eagle's* online poll – doesn't seem to favor the prayers. Out of 2,819 polled, 81 percent said there's no place for prayer in city council meetings, 17 percent said there is a place and 2 percent said they didn't care.

But whenever there's a church and state combination, the question we all really need to ask is: is it harming anyone?

In this case probably not. Taking a few moments for a prayer probably doesn't threaten the separation of church and state like, say, posting the 10 Commandments in a public school. In that case, the school as a government agency would be promoting a specific religion and specific moral concepts from that religion to all of its students regardless of their personal beliefs. In this case, the prayer is really more for the council members than the public. Maybe they need to draw strength from a higher power to deal with their meeting agenda.

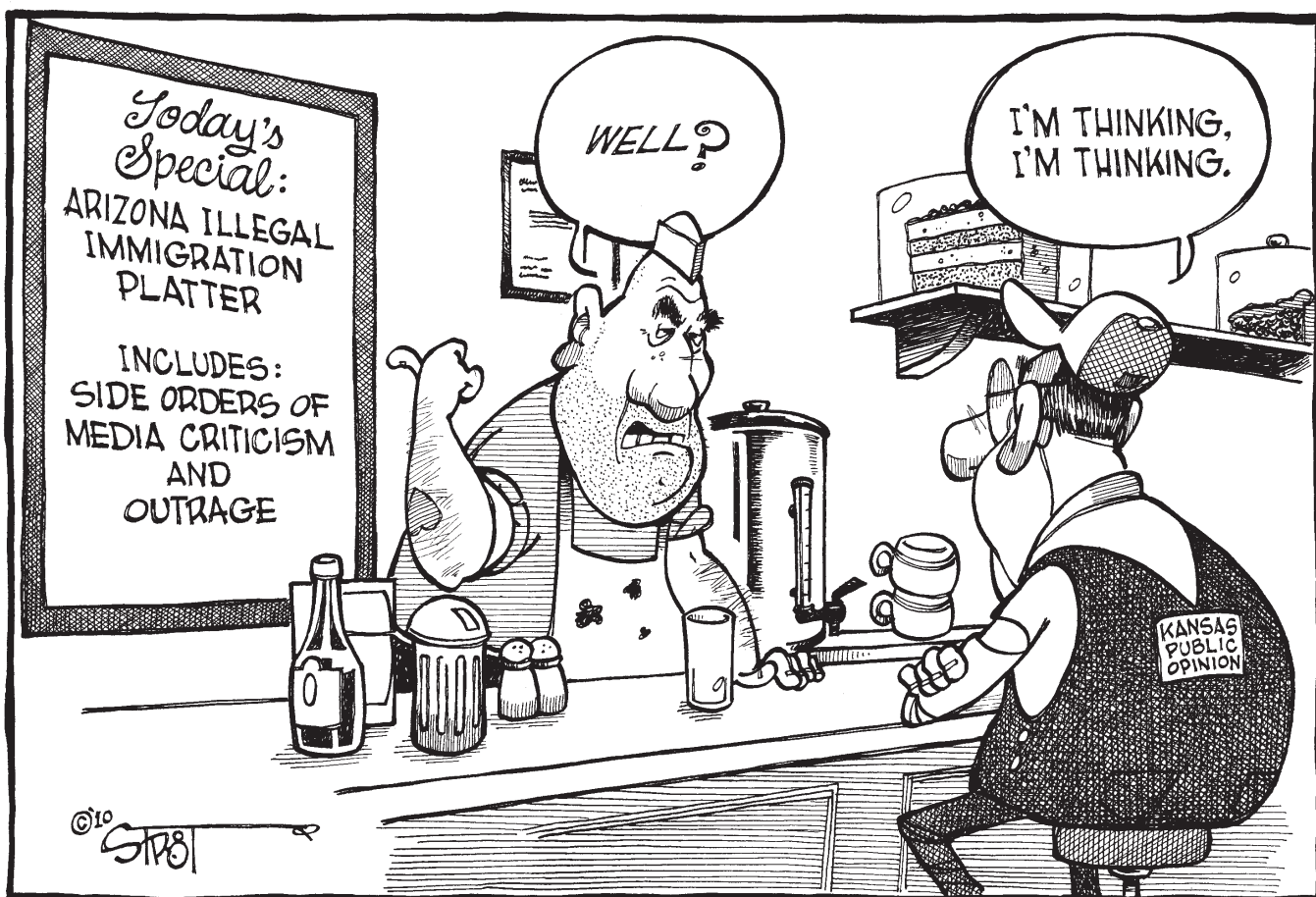
What the council needs to do is make sure the prayers are inclusive to all the faiths represented, which, according to them has been done. According to the *Eagle*, the Wichita city code says: "The presiding officer shall announce the invocation to be given by a member of a rotating panel invited for such purposes from all the religious faiths in the community." If they stick to that, what's the problem?

At the same time, organizations such as Americans United are entitled to their opinions and we're glad the council took the time to hear them.

We should take a page from the Wichita council in that allowing church and state to mingle doesn't always hurt, doesn't always threaten freedom. By all accounts, council members and the public are free to simply ignore the prayer.

There is nothing wrong with promoting religion. Religion can be a powerful force for good in our communities. What we must remain watchful for is those who want to include religion in public policy. Federal, state and municipal law must be the law of the land and religion the law of soul. Each has its place.

– Kevin Bottrell



I'm looking for some peace, quiet

Life is Good
Rita Speer



I seek to eliminate. During the school year I volunteer at the grade school. I am currently building—with intentionality—a new friendship. I quilt, and this spring and summer I have begun to discover the quilting is a spiritual exercise. It is a solitary activity, so I can talk to God, listen for his guidance and play music which enhances my openness to God. Has it made my quilting reach perfection? Hardly! I still have to rip as many seams as before, and I just discovered a mis-placed block in a quilt that just returned from the machine quilter. But I find I no longer need to get frustrated about these mistakes. I am able to simply accept them.

So how do we arrive at being peaceful? I find there are several things I can do which enhance my being able to be serene. I must eliminate turmoil in my own life. That means I consciously choose to spend as little time as possible with people whose lives are in disarray. I must have some quiet time. That usually means I pray, but I may simply be still and be aware of God's presence in my life. And I need direction, which is doing something, something of value. It would be too easy to spend my day at the computer, checking e-mail and Facebook and playing games, but that rapidly becomes the very disorder

Today, as I thought about this column after I wrote the first paragraph, I was reminded of a very simple song by Carey Landry. He wrote: "Peace is flowing like a river, flowing out of you and me, flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free." May it be so for you and me.

Zero tolerance for boredom

When I was growing up, there was one word which was never used in our home. Most would assume it was of the four letter variety. Truth be known it was a five letter one...bored. My mother didn't tolerate boredom. It was the sign of a shallow mind at best and lack of imagination at worst. I remember one of my older sons telling his wife after she declared boredom, there was no such thing. If you were bored, he told her, you either needed a nap or a household chore.

Recently I encountered another word which generated a similar response from me. A middle aged woman told me she felt 'deprived' living in Norton. Her word has haunted me ever since. According to Merriam Webster, deprived means being kept from having the necessities of life or of a healthful environment. Synonyms of the word include disadvantaged or underprivileged, while related words are impoverished, needy or poor.

Years ago someone asked one of my nephews and his wife, what they did in Norton.

They responded, "The same things you do in the city; go to the grocery store, watch kids' ball games, play golf, bowl, read, and watch TV, etc."

I've lived enough places to know 'one size does not fit all'. After moving from Reno, I found it difficult to form deep friendships like those we were blessed to have there. Searching for that perfect

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



fit proved to be a futile expedition. While living in Alabama, I thought I missed the West Coast. When we moved to Oregon, I realized it wasn't the West Coast I missed, but our strong church family in Reno.

Each move brings both good and bad. I loved the surface gentility of the South; the beauty of the Willamette Valley in Oregon; the massiveness of Hoover Dam; the college atmosphere in Ft. Collins, CO. I hated the racism of the South; the aloofness of the Pacific Northwest; the creatures of the Southwest and dorm life. When we left Reno, a dear friend gave me a plaque which read, "Bloom where you are planted". That just about sums it up.

So when my Norton friend described feeling deprived living in Norton, I felt saddened. I have not experienced feelings of deprivation in our moves, but certainly I have felt the grief associated with the loss of a way of life. Deprived is a word a bit like boredom. It really reflects more about an individual's mental outlook than the physical situation.

The county fair... what a great time of year it is! Every July, families gather to celebrate. Youngsters and adults alike are busily preparing projects. Fair time is a very hectic time of year, so remember prior planning will help make your fair experience a time to remember! So, what do you need to know before you load up your livestock and head for town? Below are a few fair tips to make the fair as smooth as possible for both humans and animals!

The fair grounds are hectic, loud, and extremely scary to livestock. Large crowds of people, carnival sounds, and confinement are all very foreign to most animals, increasing stress levels. Stress results in poor food intake, which lowers the immune system, leading to disease vulnerability. That is why it is very important to minimize stress! Prior to the fair, it is important to expose your animals to fair-like situations. This may include practicing halter tying your steer in the barn, exposing your livestock to the radio, and for a club meeting, conducting a pre-fair tour to prepare members and animals for the upcoming event. The more preparation you can do ahead of time with your exhibits, the lower the stress level for everyone and the healthier your animals will be!

Fair is a time when animals from all over the county are co-mingled. For a veterinarian the biggest concern is zoonotic diseases, diseases which can spread from animals to humans. Warts and ringworm are the two most common skin diseases that are easily spread from an infected animal to well meaning humans who may pet an infected animal. It may also spread

Vet offers tips for county fair animals

Vet tips
Dr. Aaron White



trolled by an autogenous vaccine, which is a vaccine that is made in the laboratory from wart tissue from the problem herd. Autogenous vaccines are more effective than those commercially available. If you have an animal or herd that you suspect has warts, please contact your veterinarian immediately for vaccination and control protocols.

Dermatophytosis or ringworm is caused by a fungus. Ringworm is a common, troublesome problem in show lambs, but is otherwise uncommon in production flocks of sheep and goats. Ringworm lesions are most often noticed on the head, but widespread lesions under the wool may be apparent in lambs sheared for show. Lambs that are infected should not be allowed to show until the infection is cleared. In healthy lambs, as in other species, these infections are self-limiting, but resolution may not be evident in time to salvage the use of the animal in the show ring. Dermatophytosis is most commonly recognized in calves and presents as nonpruritic lesions around the eyes.

Cattle can develop lesion on the chest and limbs. Lesions are characteristically discrete, scaling patches of hair loss with a gray-white crust formation, but some can be thick and oozing. Ringworm as a herd problem is more common in the winter. Spontaneous recovery is common, but valuable individuals should be treated to limit progression and the spread to the herd. Treatment is limited due to some agents being prohibited in animals meant for slaughter. Always ask your veterinarian what treatment is safe and effective for your animal.

Warts are generally caused by a papilloma virus. The virus is transmitted by direct contact, fomites, and possibly by insects. Papillomas have been reported in all domestic animals, birds, and fish. Warts are generally seen in younger animals, and are the most common in cattle, horses, and dogs. In cattle, warts are commonly found on the head, neck, and shoulders, and occasionally on the back and abdomen. The extent and duration of the lesions depend on the type of virus, area affected, and degree of susceptibility. Warts appear approximately 2 months after exposure and may last more than one year.

Warts become a herd problem when a large group of young, susceptible cattle become infected. Immunity usually develops 3-5 weeks after the initial infection, but warts can reoccur with the loss of immunity. Most warts appear as a cauliflower lesion. Vaccines are of some value as a preventative, but are of little value in treating cattle that already have lesions. Most wart viruses are species-specific, which means cattle can transmit the virus to one another, but a human is not a risk for that particular virus. When the disease is a herd problem it can be con-

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To Pamida who helped the Norton Boy Scout Troop by allowing them to have a Yard Sale and BBQ in their front parking lot! Emailed in.

To Goof Urban for providing an icy cold treat to our special six year old granddaughter on her long walk into town. Called in.

To the Prairie Dog 4-H Club for their compassion and love for animals. From the Norton Animal Shelter.

Thank you to the 4-H club for waiting for the Andbe Home Bus before starting the 4-H Style show. It was a very nice show and we appreciate the thoughtfulness. Called in.