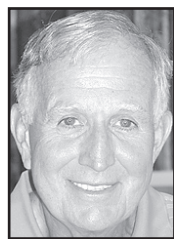


Multiple issues on political agenda

I know of no other time in the history of Kansas politics when there have been so many issues for change in government operations, offered all at once. The method I prefer would be to carefully evaluate changes to one or two key policy areas. Analyze the change, offer the changes for comment to all interested parties, and then gauge the reaction.

News from your legislator
Ward Cassidy



There is now a House tax plan, a Senate tax plan, and the Governor's proposed tax plan. One part of the House Plan that I like is the proposal to allow .6 cents of the 2010 penny sales tax increase to expire in 2013. The Governor's plan is to renew the full 1 cent sales tax. If the money in the state coffers continues to come in, reducing the sales tax would benefit a lot of people. The Kansas Department of Transportation would keep the .4 cent of the 2010 penny sales tax increase under both the House and Governor's plan. What I don't like, in the House plan, relates to the Kansas Department of Transportation. It would freeze KDOT spending for two years. The House tax committee said that the fund would be restored and that KDOT would not lose any dollars in the long run. The transportation bill gives about eight million dollars a year to each of my counties, and I can't support putting that on hold. I have also seen where the legislature says they will return funds—and then something changes over time.

I have received many e-mails about keeping the Kansas Community Service Tax Credit Program. I feel that the credit has been very valuable, to our area, and I have been working to ensure that it becomes a part of any tax plan. The House plan does keep current tax credits and deductions the same as they now are.

As if we needed any more issues, HB 2353 was passed out of committee. This would allow concealed carry permit holders to carry in all public buildings such as libraries, hospitals, and college campuses, unless all entrances to those buildings have metal detectors. I have a concealed carry license, but I will have trouble supporting the cost and dangers involved with this bill. I never thought I could oppose any bill relating to our 2nd amendment, but I am planning to oppose this one.

This week, the Governor issued his first Executive Reorganization Order (ERO) of the 2012 legislative session. ERO 41 would propose the following: consolidating the financing arm of Medicaid in KDHE Division of Health Care Finance, renaming the Department on Aging as the Department for Aging and Disability Services, consolidating all disability waiver and mental health services from SRS into the new Department for Aging and Disability Services, and renaming SRS as the Department for Children and Families.

If neither chamber rejects this ERO within sixty days of receiving it, it will go into effect July 1, 2012. Despite the many concerns from advocates and interested parties, the Governor's office contends that there is no stopping it now. I would say that this topic is the one that dominates my calls and e-mails.

We were given a very disturbing fact today in committee: today in America, there are nearly twice as many people working for the government (22.5 m) than in all of manufacturing (11.5 m). This is almost an exact reversal of the situation in 1960: 15m in manufacturing and 8.7m in government. You can draw your own conclusions from this.



Homeopathic remedies using honey

A perk of some land we own is the presence of bee hives.

We don't do anything with the bees. They are maintained by someone else. For our "trouble" we are gifted with honey each December!

I repackage it into small jars and hand it out at Christmas. We have also used it as hostess gifts when we travel and for our cousin's reunion.

Each vintage, or year, the honey tastes different.

My friend, Bev, is a great believer in honey for medicinal purposes. She maintains that hot honey and pineapple juice will cure almost anything.

Honey may also help with allergies. It makes sense. Locally produced honey potentially contains the pollens one is allergic to. A spoonful every day desensitizes naturally.

WARNING: Do not give honey to babies under age one. It may contain botulism and in rare cases cause illness.

All this comes to mind because we have been sick. The hubby had a flu shot. I did not. I got sick first; a mild cold.

The occupational hazard of black lung for coal miners surely has a counterpart in farmers. I call it "farmer's lung!" Every winter, we deal with it.

When the hubby gets sick he really

This Too Shall Pass
Nancy Hagman



gets sick. So my little cold is major for him! 2:00 a.m., a couple of nights into this most recent episode, I desperately searched the medicine cabinet for something to stop his cough. No better stocked than it is, apparently we aren't sick much.

As luck would have it there was cough syrup! Cough syrup should be syrupy but this was almost solid. The label read "Expires Oct 2003". Wow--- we moved in 2005! Who moves expired cough syrup and then keeps it another 6-plus years???

Time for alternative medicine; I heated pineapple juice and honey in the microwave. It worked. Though it may not have had anything to do with the honey, later the hubby made a comment about how hot it was. He thinks I scalded his throat.

The next night, he insisted on doctoring himself! At times like this I try to remember the part about "in sickness and in health" from the

marriage vows! Between my lack of patience and his stubborn refusal to accept help, sickness is challenging!

After a few days, my condition regressed. I lost my voice, from the hubby's view, a good thing! Then I became a bass. People would call and apologize thinking they had the wrong number.

But if illness were a competition, there is no way I would ever win!

I'm finally better. The hubby required a doctor's visit and antibiotics. He's a little better, maybe---

As word of our condition spread the home remedy crowd began offering advice. Surely I am not that annoying when I give the hubby hints?

Once again honey figures prominently into the equation; this time with cinnamon. It will cure anything from bad breath to cancer!

When the bee-man left the honey last fall, there was a note in the box explaining that some hives were going to California to pollinate almonds over the winter. Sure enough a couple of weeks later our hives were gone!

The bees go to California and I'm stuck in Kansas with a sick husband!

Honey may cure all sorts of maladies, but right now California or some equally warm and sunny climate would cure what ails me!

A reply to unnamed author about today's politics

Last week a reader forwarded an essay to me and although I sent a personal response I would like to address a few aspects of the writing which troubled me. The focus of the work was to compare President Obama and Fidel Castro as seen through the eyes of a Cuban refugee. The essay's author was not identified, so I always question the validity of those unwilling to be recognized.

President Obama was elected by a majority of voters; not by overthrowing the government of George W. Bush. The comparison was made, "Yes, we all thought he was a patriot, a nationalist. Before the revolution he didn't sound like a radical." Obama has revamped his ideas on numerous issues (known as compromise), but few issues have been proposed with a more extreme agenda than when he campaigned.

One of Castro's early actions was to contain the media. This would be much more attributable to George W. through the Patriot Act, than our current president. Although I am

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



sure the President would often love to curtail the media, he also recognizes its central role in a democracy.

As one would expect, an article wouldn't be complete without the issue of gun control. Barack Obama has never endorsed turning over our guns. This is a political hot point and one which raises the hairs (sorry for the pun) on the backs of fearful citizens.

But the following was probably the highlight, "If you had asked us three years ago if we thought General Motors would be nationalized, we would have never believed it." The article then continues, "The bondholders of GM are stripped of their assets...without due process by the government!" It is

important to note the auto bailout began with George W. Bush. Ezra Klein states in November of 2010, "Did we succeed in saving the companies? We did, at least for now. Did we succeed in saving most of the jobs? We did. Did the government manage to resist the temptation to take over the entities and make them state-run corporations? Absolutely -- in fact, the government got out as quickly as possible." Paul Krugman, professor of Economics and International Affairs at Princeton University said the auto industry bailout was, "the single most successful policy initiative of recent years."

I have to say however, there was one absolute truth imbedded in the myriad of untruths and that is, "Political leaders can lie about their agenda and once in office...they can take totally unexpected turns." It didn't continue to remind us, politics is an equal opportunity employer, both parties are equally guilty. I will gladly forward the complete work, just send an email request to: mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

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- ★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. roberts.senate.gov/public/ (202) 224-4774
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- ★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 300 SW 10th St., Room 262-E A., Topeka, Kan. 66612. ralph.ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us (785) 296-7399
- ★ **Congressman Tim Huelkamp**, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. huelskamp.house.gov (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124
- ★ **State Rep. Rick Billinger**, Docking Building, Room 754, Topeka, Kan. 66612 rick.billinger@house.ks.gov (785) 296-7659
- ★ **State Rep. Ward Cassidy**, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Topeka, Kan. 66612 ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov (785) 296-7696

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OFFICE HOURS:
8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Thur.
8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732

STAFF

- Dana Paxton.....General Manager/Advertising Director
email: dpaxton@nwkansan.com
- Carleen Bell.....Managing Editor
cbell@nwkansan.com
- Dick Boyd.....Blue Jay Sports
nortontelegram@nwkansan.com
- Michael Stephens....Reporter/Society Editor
mstephens@nwkansan.com
- Vicki Henderson.....Computer Production



Letters to the Editor and Thumbs Up:
e-mail dpaxton@nwkansan.com
or to write 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Ks. 67654
785-877-3361



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