

Legislators still fighting for gun rights

News from your legislator
Ward Cassidy



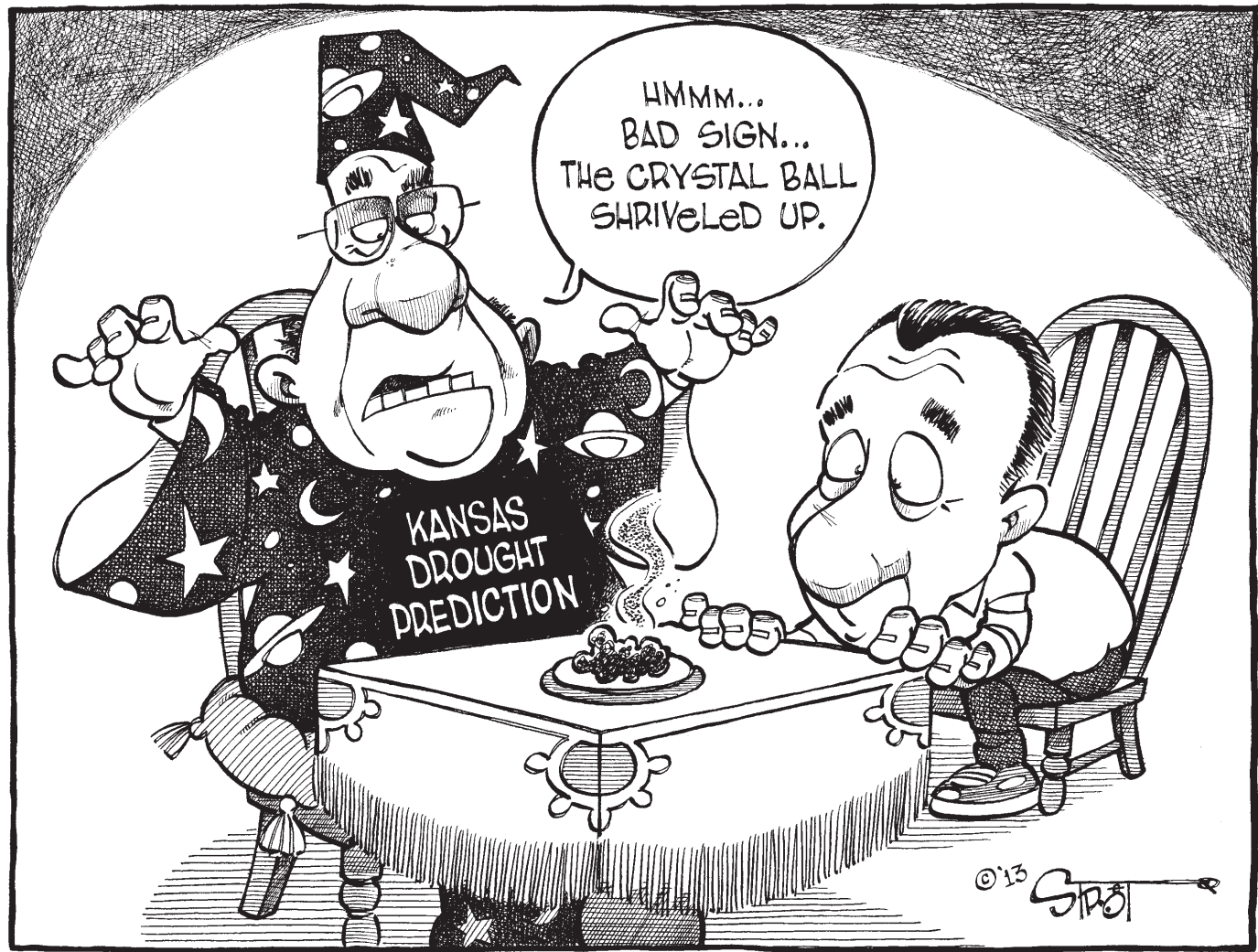
Early this session I had the opportunity to be a co-sponsor for HB 2199, the 2nd Amendment Protection Act. This act would exclude from federal regulation any personal firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition manufactured commercially or privately and owned in Kansas. As long as any such firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition remained in Kansas, the bill would provide that it would not be subject to any federal law, regulation, or authority. Also, the bill would prevent any federal agent or contracted employee, any state employee, or any local authority from enforcing any federal regulation or law governing a personal firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition manufactured and owned in Kansas, provided it remained within the borders of Kansas.

This bill essentially reaffirms the 2nd Amendment, which guarantees the right of Kansans to keep and bear arms. The bill would also state that because the Constitution does not grant the federal government authority in this area, any leeway to determine how the 2nd Amendment right is exercised is the prerogative of the state. Thus, any attempts by the federal government to regulate the use of firearms manufactured and owned in Kansas would be considered unenforceable in the state of Kansas.

The bill passed the House by a vote of 94 to 29. The bill is now headed to the Senate for further consideration. My best guess is this will become law in Kansas.

There were two other House bills passed this past week in the House. HB 2052 would establish a uniform state law addressing unlawful discharge of a firearm within or into a city. This bill would unify the law for all Kansans, ensuring them the ability to use a firearm lawfully to defend themselves or others anywhere in the state. It passed 212 to 2.

The third piece of gun legislation passing the House this week was an addition to the Concealed Carry Act. The addition to the Act ensures Kansans have the right to protect themselves in public places where security is not provided. I believe that placing a sign saying guns are not allowed is not a deterrent and does not provide the public with a safe environment. I also argued that legal citizens who have gone out of their way to obtain training from a licensed individual as well as a background check by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation are not the people who shoot up schools and movie theaters. This bill passed the House by a vote of 84 to 38 and I voted for it.



We must not be arrogant or naive

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



Perhaps I am arrogant. Perhaps I am naive. Perhaps I have too much faith in our country's intelligence skills, even with the Weapons of Mass Destruction fiasco in Iraq. Perhaps I suffer from all of the above. Having said all of this, I must admit feeling a bit uneasy about North Korea's 29 year old Kim Jong Un. The Los Angeles Times has described him as, "a bratty, brutal prince from a darker era."

While the United States military assures us North Korea could not launch a missile capable of striking mainland U.S., I am reminded of the Japanese assault on Pearl Harbor. A 2009 article about Pearl Harbor in the U.S. Naval Institute's Naval History Magazine, "How the Japanese Did It," by Robert J. Hanyok stated, "The Japanese completely fooled U.S. intelligence."

Determining what a country or more to the point what a leader will do is more about personality, background and present environment than just

mere military prowess. All too often, and most of us are guilty of this on a smaller scale, we try to predict another's actions based on our own experiences. A dangerous situation.

One of my sons told me one time, when I was working with children of a drug dealer, "You are basing your assumptions on your lifestyle and your beliefs. He doesn't share those with you and consequently you can't predict what he is capable of." A few days later I had an example of this and I turned in my resignation. I couldn't think outside of my zone to anticipate another's actions.

Kim Jong Un falls into this category,

and I fear the United States may be in denial, much like I was. At the very worst, the young leader may attempt a brutal attack; at the very least his rantings pose the real danger of disrupting the precarious balance of power of the region. We have already experienced this scenario in the Middle East. Do we really want a repeat performance in another part of the world? With modern weaponry and the possibility of a dirty bomb, a physical hit is no longer necessary to achieve mass destruction. The right bomb in the wrong place would be deadly.

Having said all of this, what do we do? We must set aside our arrogance, our naivete, and our illusions. Just because we think North Korea can't, doesn't mean they won't. We have to think outside our area of understanding and prepare for all possibilities, even those we don't like. Mail to: mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

We all scream for Dairy Queen ice cream

This Too Shall Pass
Nancy Hagman



It was interesting to read of the awards given by the Chamber, Business of the Year, NEW Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year.

Those competing with Dairy Queen in the NEW Business category should have been given a handicap. The importance of the return of this iconic business to Highway 36 cannot be denied.

My quilting friends and I looked forward to (just a little) treat each time we visited Stitch Up A Storm. Several in my group travel through Norton regularly to visit family or for business. A stop at the Dairy Queen was always eagerly anticipated.

In March of 2012, after spending the day in Norton enjoying the National Quilt Month festivities, our little group wheeled into Dairy Queen only to realize it was CLOSED! It put a serious damper on the day. (In case you were wondering the snacking part of quilting is not where the term "fat quarter" came from.)

I remember the DQ in its earliest configuration. One stood outside in

the elements and ordered through a window. No hamburgers or fries, just ice cream! The DQ was closed during the winter, I believe.

We were seldom allowed anything but a nickel ice cream cone. A chocolate malt was a quarter or so, with a family of six the difference was 30 cents versus \$1.50. That was huge! I think of that often when the hubby and I are traveling; a stop at a convenience store for a little snack is between five and ten dollars! And we just pay it, we don't even blink! Were we poor or frugal in the 50's? Are we rich or struggling middle class now?

Later a little addition was built on to the front of the DQ. What a deal, you could walk in and order in air

conditioned comfort!

There is no doubt DQ figures prominently into the memories of every person privileged to grow up in Norton County!

During the time the fate of the DQ appeared to be in limbo, daughter Elizabeth got this idea. If her current career path did not work out she would return to Norton and reopen the DQ.

Although it leaves Elizabeth without a back-up plan, I'm thrilled the Enfields saw the opportunity the DQ presented. If worse comes to worst, perhaps they could use a DNT (Doctor No Thesis) dishwasher. The thesis should be complete in the fall; that might earn a promotion to the wait staff! She could ask the burning questions, "Why do you want fries with that?"

The list of nominees for the Chamber Awards was full of deserving candidates! As they say "It's an honor to be nominated!"

Congratulations KQNK, Scott Sproul and Dairy Queen and especially to the true winners: the residents of Norton. How lucky you are to live there!



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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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