

## America has trouble winning all it's wars

Since the nation united to defeat the Axis powers during World War II, the U.S. has had trouble "winning" wars, though the results have not been all bad.

We had to win World War II. The best result otherwise would have left us isolated by hostile powers dominating Europe and Asia; at the low ebb, the idea of a German invasion and takeover of the U.S. - unimaginable as that might seem - was not out of reason.

In Korea, we stopped the invasion of South Korea and drove the invaders back to the Chinese border. We in turn were routed by waves of Chinese "volunteers" and driven back. A truce, still in effect, restored the border between the two Koreas, but the war itself has never ended.

After fighting in Vietnam for more than a decade, we pulled our troops out, leaving our allies to the tender mercies of the communists. Many South Vietnamese friends would end up in labor camps, the lucky ones, anyway.

Today Vietnam is a thriving, developing Third-World country, where merchandise in airport shops is priced in dollars, not "dong." Maybe we lost the war, but won the peace.

In the first Gulf War, we "won" by driving Iraq out of Kuwait, losing only about 135 troops in all, but left Saddam Hussein in power. Along the way, we killed hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, a fact that few Americans seem to remember.

Leaving Saddam set us up for the next round, however, and that may have been a mistake.

Then came the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, which prompted us to invade Afghanistan and suppress the Taliban. Win is now how we would describe the result, however, and now we are pulling out, leaving our allies and especially the women of Afghanistan, to a fate, if anything, worse than that of our Vietnamese friends.

Iraq, if anything, has turned out even worse. It's degenerating into chaos, anarchy and violence, where the probable winners are the radical Islamists who prompted us to get into the war in the first place. You have to ask, if the goal was to replace Saddam, is that how we wanted things to turn out?

Why do we fight these wars, anyway? In Iraq and Afghanistan, at least, our casualties have been light - fewer than 8,000 troops killed in 13 years, nothing compared to 58,000 in Vietnam or 36,500 in Korea. The cost to any family that lost a son or daughter is incalculable, of course, and the fiscal cost mounts into the billions.

The cost of total war is far higher - 650,000 dead in the U.S. Civil War, about 405,000 Americans in World War II. But wars that must be fought become total war, as Abraham Lincoln and his contemporaries found a century and a half ago.

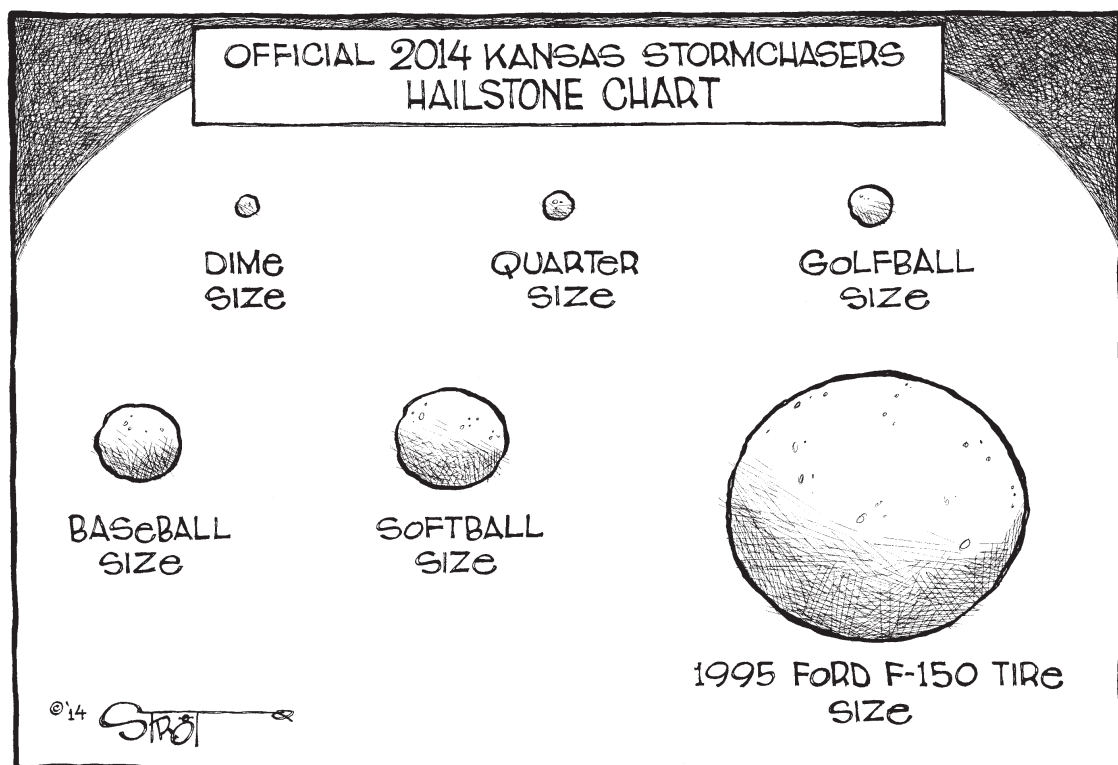
"Limited" wars may have lower costs, but it can be hard to assert a victory, harder still to maintain one after we pull out.

What have we gained from 13 years and untold billions of fighting?

We have suppressed the terrorist movement, for a time anyway. But their friends seem likely to dominate both nations, and both will be used to train fighters and stage new attacks. It is hard to say we "won" either war.

Limited wars do not receive total commitment, and without that, it's difficult to achieve even limited goals. The way we are leaving dishonors those who paid the ultimate price.

Being the world's superpower and policeman is no easy task. When will we learn either not to get into these adventures, or to bring them quickly and successfully to a conclusion that can be held? - Steve Haynes



## Reader talks about water meeting

Letter to the Editor: I was pleased to see the turnout for the South Fork Republican River Water User's Forum at the High School on Tuesday, June 24. The presentations were very informative, and I thought the charts illustrated a very telltale story on the history and future of water use for the Republican River area. Some of the items concerned me a great deal, however. The current and proposed "solutions" from Colorado are like putting a band-aid on an amputation... an insufficient temporary fix for a severe long-term problem. The simple fact is that there is dramatically less water available to the ENTIRE area of the Republican River Compact, and each state must responsibly use their share. Colorado has been out of compliance since 2003, using over 50,000 acre-feet

Letter to Editor: more than their share in the period from 2003 to 2007, according to the statistics provided. The reallocation of South Fork water to the North Fork is just a political strategy that makes it appear that they are in compliance. In reality, Colorado has just severed the lifeblood of Cheyenne County water users who receive very little benefit, if any, from the North Fork. I call this what it is... "Smoke and Mirrors", and it's a damaging political game many people play. We heard many local farmers and home-owners talk about the reductions they are seeing with both their irrigation wells and domestic residential wells. We also heard many good comments regarding the local impacts of the decline of water availability. Shutting down some of the high-volume wells west of the state line will not restore stream flow overnight, but it would be a giant step toward restoring the balance originally intended through the Republican River Compact. We need responsible long-term remedies for BOTH the North Fork and South Fork water users. Northwest Kansas certainly has a unique situation with the Republican River and the complications of dealing with not one, but two other states. Local economies and families depend on the future of this water resource! Adam W. Smith Wallace County Commissioner Candidate for State Representative, 120th District

## Across the County

### Livestock Heat stress is a Danger



By Marty Fear County Extension Agent

The heat and humidity of summer is arriving in many parts of Kansas this week.

Heat stress is hard on cattle and other livestock, especially when combined with high humidity and low wind speeds. Heat stress can reduce feed intake, weight gain, reproductive efficiency and milk production, while increasing susceptibility to diseases.

Signs of heat stress can include animals bunching, seeking shade, and panting, slobbering or excessive salivation, foaming around the mouth, open mouth breathing, lack of coordination and trembling.

If such symptoms are observed, handlers should assume the animal is suffering from too much heat and immediately try to minimize the stress to the animal, especially by

reducing handling or movement of the animal. Previous health of individual animals is an important risk factor, as animals with past health problems will be more affected by heat stress than animals with no prior health problems. These animals will generally be the first to exhibit signs of heat stress and be the most severely affected.

In addition, as county fair season approaches, there are several things people showing animals should keep in mind, beginning with the heat index commonly reported by media outlets.

If the heat index is above 100 degrees, animals can tolerate it if shade is available and/or wind speed is at least 10 miles per hour, so show animals should be provided shade and/or moving air via fans.

If the index gets above 110 degrees, animals will be stressed regardless of wind speed. Show animals should be in the shade with fans, especially market ready animals, and have plenty of access to water. If a heat index above 110 is predicted, livestock shows should be completed by noon. In addition, livestock that need to be moved or transported should be out of the facilities by early morning but certainly by noon, if possible. If the heat index is above 115 degrees, avoid moving or handling market ready animals. Livestock show rings should be shaded with fans and misters; the show staff should

consider postponing the show due to excessive heat.

If the heat index is above 120 degrees, no activity should occur for animals or humans.

During the heat of summer, livestock management must include providing: shade, ventilation and air flow, plenty of clean and cool water, skin wetting, cool water drench (if the animal becomes very heat distressed), and sprinklers or hoses. Shade can be provided by trees, buildings or other sunshades. In addition, the temperature can be lowered by spraying cool water on the roof and walls of buildings where the animals are being housed. Improved ventilation can be provided by fans or opening windows on a breezy day. Sunshades should be high enough off the ground (10 feet or more) to allow for adequate air movement.

If one is wetting cattle, the droplet size should be large enough to wet the skin, not just the hair. "A small droplet size will usually just wet the hair creating more humidity for the animal, thus not helping at all."

During times of heat stress, animals should not be subjected to too much activity, including movement or transportation. For additional information contact the extension office at 785-332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu. Till next week - Marty

## Casey's Comments



By Casey McCormick mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

### If it ain't broke, don't fix it

I'm one of those persons who prefers to look to the past, rather than the future, for happiness and hope. You "can't go back," but you can sure see what has worked.

The Cozy Inn in Salina, KS is a good example of, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Back in 1921, the first White Castle hamburger restaurant opened in Wichita. That may have influenced the start of the Cozy Inn in 1922. Palm sized "slider" burgers were served with onion and pickle only, mustard and ketchup could be added with cheese never as an option. The cost was a nickle each, and would remain that price for 20 years.

Shortly after opening the small, six stool diner was purchased by a semi-pro baseball player named Robert Kinkel, who was looking for a new way to make a living. It worked well for him.

A friend who grew up in Salina gave Lezlie and me a gift certificate to try it out. Last Saturday we broke up a trip to Kansas City by stopping at the Cozy Inn for lunch. As we took in the scenery, which could still be back in the 1920s, she ate four while I managed to down six burgers.

10 sliders, two bags of chips and two cans of soda cost \$15.00. Not quite pre-depression prices but it

was worth every cent to enjoy the trip back in time.

One last note, it's hard to sneak into the Cozy Inn and not have folks notice. In the tight quarters the smell from the grilled meat and onions permeates the diner's clothing. So don't think you can get away with stopping and not telling. People will know you took a visit to the past in Salina.

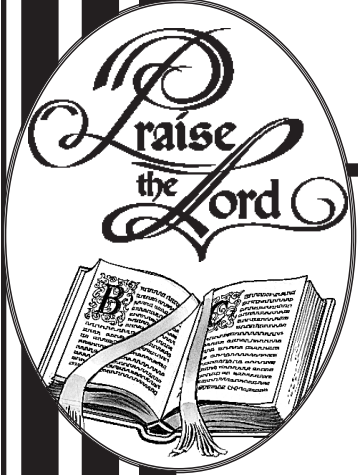
GOD SAYS So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. John 8:7

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