

Gun rights, mental health on 2010 ballot

From "BALLOT," Page 1

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a District Columbia case that individuals have the right to bear arms, striking down a ban on handguns. But the case was not viewed as far-reaching because of D.C.'s unique federal status. Then this June, the high court struck down a Chicago handgun law, declaring that Americans have the right to own a gun for self-defense regardless of where they live.

Kansas legislators responded after the D.C. case by voting to put the fix to the state Constitution to voters.

Stonking said the rifle association is putting out fliers and bumper stickers to let gun owners and other Kansans know about the ballot issue and drum up support.

"In my mind, what this really is is clean-up work. It's making sure our constitution is clear," Stonking said.

Richard Levy, a law professor at the University of Kansas, said he wasn't aware of a wave of state initiatives on the issue. He said even if states lack specific constitu-

tional guarantees to the individual right to bear arms, the federal constitution does, providing protection for citizens.

"The federal constitutional right sets the minimum," Levy said. "States might give greater rights than the federal constitution."

For example, states may specify greater rights for carrying concealed weapons, licensing of firearms or necessary training. Levy said future federal regulations are likely because of the federal ruling, but how the U.S. Supreme Court would react is unknown.

"The question would be floor versus ceiling perception," he said.

The second question concerns voting rights and removes a section Sheli Sweeney of the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas considers "archaic."

It would change Section 2 of Article 5 to remove language granting the Legislature the authority to deny voting rights to the mentally ill, along with convicted felons and those in prison. Kansans changed the

section of the law in the 1970s when the Constitution was last updated on a grand scale, but left the mental health exception.

Sweeney said had the changes been made later in the decade, the mental health exception also would have been nixed. Mental illness was just beginning to be understood, leading to changes in treatment and diagnosis that otherwise would have led to a "hospital sentence" for residents.

"We were just on the cusp of understanding," Sweeney said.

Levy said the mental illness provision change "may be important for making a political statement and symbolism."

"It's not really an issue until the Legislature tries to exercise that power," he said. "It seems like it would be pretty difficult to do that at this juncture."

The federal courts have held that voting is a fundamental right, he said, and attempts to deny those rights are going to be scrutinized and found invalid.

The association is not taking the passage of time for granted, however, and will be conducting a statewide education cam-

paign to let voters know why the revision is needed.

"A voter with mental illness doesn't mean someone who is in a state hospital," Sweeney said, "but someone with anxiety, depression, a soldier coming back with (post traumatic stress disorder). It's our grandparents and our neighbors."

Sweeney said Kansas isn't the only state with such provisions, "but one of the few." However she said every constitution protects the right to vote for residents with disabilities, which would override attempts to block the mentally ill.

She said the association was glad the amendment was listed second behind the guns measure. Advocates haven't set a goal for percentage of voters approving the change, but Sweeney said they were hoping for better than 60 percent.

"We don't think it's going to be an easy one, because people who have not had it explained to them won't understand it," Sweeney said. "The first question is also a 'yes' question and we hope to build momentum off that."

State commission wants to buy your water rights

From "WATER," Page 1

help extend the program."

To be eligible, land must have been under active use for six of the last 10 years. Anyone approved for the project will get \$2,000 per acre-foot of historic consumptive water use, or average irrigation use over the last six years, in exchange for permanently giving up irrigation water rights. The higher the historic use, the more priority

the land will get in the selection process.

The money is limited. The project was approved by the Legislature in 2007 as a five-year pilot program with a yearly budget of \$1.5 million, Frost said, but no money was available last year due to the state's budget crisis. This year, he said, there is about \$500,000 available.

The enrollment period ends Monday, Nov. 15. If there is mon-

ey left, the state will take applications again from Feb. 15 to March 31 next year. The commission will approve the applications within 60 days of the deadline. Only private landowners are allowed to apply.

Dryland farming is permitted even after the landowner has giv-

en up their water rights, Frost said, and they can irrigate the land with water from other sources.

For information, call Frost, at (785) 296-8964. Complete program rules and regulations, applications, maps, and other details are posted at www.scc.ks.gov.

Information and farmers can get help at the Groundwater Management District No. 4 office in Colby, (785) 462-3915, or at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources, field office in Stockton, (785) 425-6787.

Ellis County train show comin' down the tracks

Model trains are a great hobby and memory builder for the whole family, and the Western Kansas Train Show on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 23 and 24, will feature thousands of trains to see at the Ellis County Fair Grounds near Hays.

Ten layouts from across Kansas and Nebraska will be set up in two buildings of the fairgrounds.

Steam, diesel, Thomas and passenger trains, and of course, modern freight trains will be running. Dealers from across the Midwest will be at the show. Many scales

of trains will be available, along with train art and paintings.

Railroad book and train author Robert Collins, who wrote books about many of the short-line railroads of western Kansas, will be at the show.

The Ellis Railroad Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The train show will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission for adults is \$5; children under 12 are free with a paid adult.

Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 48. Breezy, with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 85. South wind around 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 47. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. Northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 46.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.

Friday: Sunny and breezy, with a high near 83.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 81.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 76.

Friday: High, 82; Low 43
Saturday: High, 64; Low 42
Sunday: High, 69; Low 45
Precip: Friday 0.00 inches
Saturday 0.00 inches
Sunday 0.00 inches
Month: 0.00 inches
Year: 17.72 inches
Normal: 19.19 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Tuesday 7:44 a.m. 7:20 p.m.
Wednesday 7:45 a.m. 7:19 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

LOCAL TV LISTINGS

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Tuesday Evening		October 5, 2010									
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	No Ordinary Family	Dancing With Stars	Detroit 1-8-7		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live				
KBSL/CBS	NCIS	NCIS: Los Angeles	The Good Wife		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late				
KSNK/NBC	The Biggest Loser		Parenthood		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late				
KSAS/FOX	Glee	Raising	Wilde		Local						
Cable Channels											
A & E	Billy	Billy	Billy	Billy	Billy	Billy	Billy	Billy	Billy	Billy	
AMC	Wild Wild West				Life						
ANIM	Weird	Weird	Lost Tape	Lost Tape	Lost Tape	Lost Tape	Lost Tape	Lost Tape	Lost Tape	Lost Tape	
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.	Flipping Out			Housewives/Atl.		Housewives of D.C.		Flipping Out		
CMT	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover			Extreme Makeover		The Dukes of Hazzard		Smarter	Smarter	
CNN	Parker Spitzer	Larry King Live			Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live		
COMEDY	Kevin Hart	Tosh.0	Tosh.0		Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Daily	Colbert	South Pk	South Pk	
DISC	Swords: Life	Swords: Life			Dirty Jobs: Egg Farm		Swords: Life		Swords: Life		
DISN	Halloweentown II: Revenge		Deck		Sonny	Sonny	Good Luck	Good Luck	Hannah	Hannah	
E!	Hollywood Tragedies				Kardash	Kardash	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Kardash	
ESPN	30 for 30		2010 Poker				SportsCenter		Baseball Tonight		
ESPN2	College Football						30 for 30		2010 Poker		
FAM	Melissa	Ever After					The 700 Club		Whose?	Whose?	
FOOD	Challenge		Cupcake Wars		Chopped		Ace of Cakes		Cupcake Wars		
FX	Ghost Rider				Sons of Anarchy		Terriers		Sons of Anarchy		
HGTV	Property	First	House	Estate	House	Hunters	For Rent	First	House	Estate	
HIST	Decoding the Past	Ice Road Truckers			IRT Deadliest Roads		Modern Marvels		Decoding the Past		
LIFE	How I Met	How I Met	Wife Swap		Wife Swap		How I Met	How I Met	Wife Swap		
MTV	True Life		Teen Mom		Teen Mom		If You Really		Teen Mom		
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	
SCI	Stargate Universe	Stargate Universe			Caprica		Stargate Universe		Caprica		
SPIKE	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	Ways Die	BlueMount	BlueMount	BlueMount	BlueMount	
TBS	Office	Office	Office	Office	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Lopez Tonight		Office	Earl	
TCM	Dr. Jekyll-Hyde				Man in Gray						
TLC	Tallest Children	19 Kids	19 Kids		Say Yes	Say Yes	Tallest Children		19 Kids	19 Kids	
TNT	Bones	Law & Order			Law & Order		CSI: NY		CSI: NY		
TOON	Unnatural History	Titan	Star Wars		King/Hill	King/Hill	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen	
TRAV	Mysteries-Museum	Halloween Ext.			Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		Halloween Ext.		
TV LAND	Sanford	Sanford	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU			Law & Order: SVU		Law-Order L.A.		Law & Order: SVU		
VH1	La La	Fantasia	Fantasia	Fantasia	New Jack City				Behind the Music		
WGN	Chris	Chris	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine		Scrubs	Scrubs	South Pk	South Pk	
Premium Channels											
HBO	Just Not	Taken			Eastbound	Eastbound	Bored	Boardwalk Empire	Teenage		
MAX	Minority Report				Cirque Du Freak						
SHOW	Finding Amanda	Weeds	The Big C		Dexter		Weeds	The Big C	Halloween II		

Wednesday Evening		October 6, 2010									
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	Middle	Better	Family	Cougar	The Whole Truth		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
KBSL/CBS	Survivor: Nicaragua		Criminal Minds		The Defenders		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late		
KSNK/NBC	Undercovers		Law & Order: SVU		Law-Order L.A.		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno	Late		
KSAS/FOX	Hell's Kitchen				Local						
Cable Channels											
A & E	Dog Bounty Hunter	Dog Bounty Hunter			Seagal	Seagal	Seagal	Seagal	Dog Bounty Hunter		
AMC	Top Gun						True Lies				
ANIM	I'm Alive		I Shouldn't Be Alive		I Shouldn't Be Alive		I Shouldn't Be Alive		I Shouldn't Be Alive		
BRAVO	Top Chef Dsrst	Top Chef Dsrst			Top Chef: Just Desserts		Top Chef Dsrst		Top Chef		
CMT	The Whole Nine Yards				Videos		The Dukes of Hazzard		Smarter	Smarter	
CNN	Parker Spitzer	Larry King Live			Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live		
COMEDY	Chappelle	Chappelle	Futurama	South Pk	South Pk	Ugly Amer	Daily	Colbert	South Pk	Ugly Amer	
DISC	MythBusters		MythBusters		Bad Universe		MythBusters		MythBusters		
DISN	Halloweentown High		Deck		Sonny	Sonny	Good Luck	Good Luck	Hannah	Hannah	
E!	Scary Movie				Kids of Killers		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Kids	
ESPN	College Football						SportsCenter		Baseball Tonight		
ESPN2	Women's Soccer		2010 Poker		2010 Poker		2010 Poker		NFL Live	NASCAR	
FAM	Funniest Home Videos	Funniest Home Videos			Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club		Whose?	Whose?	
FOOD	The Next Iron Chef		B. Flay		24 Hour Rest. Battle		Diners	Diners	The Next Iron Chef		
FX	Leatherheads				Terriers		Terriers		Two Men	Two Men	
HGTV	Property	First	Income	Crashers	House	Hunters	Handyman		Income	Crashers	
American Profile											
We Celebrate Hometown Life											
Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.											
HIST	American Pickers	Discovered America?					Barbarians		American Pickers		
LIFE	How I Met	How I Met	Flatliners				How I Met	How I Met	Flatliners		
MTV	Teen Mom		Jersey Shore		The Challenge: Cutth		The Challenge: Cutth		Fantasy	Fantasy	
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	
SCI	Ghost Hunters		Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		Ghost Hunters		Ghost Hunters Inter.		
SPIKE	UFC Unleashed	UFC Unleashed			The Ultimate Fighter		UFC	UFC	The Ultimate Fighter		
TBS	MLB Baseball				MLB Baseball						
TCM	Citizen Kane				The Seventh Seal				The Third Man		
TLC	Hoard-Buried	LA Ink			LA Ink		LA Ink		LA Ink		
TNT	Bones	Bones			CSI: NY		CSI: NY		CSI: NY		
TOON	Dude	Destroy	Regular	MAD	King/Hill	King/Hill	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen	
TRAV	Man, Food	Man, Food	Man, Food	Man, Food	Food Wars	Man, Food	Conqueror	Man, Food	Man, Food	Man, Food	
TV LAND	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond		Harry	Harry	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	
USA	NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		Ocean's Thirteen				
VH1	Soul Train: Hippest Trip				La La	La La	La La		I Love Money	Real and Chance	
WGN	Chris	Chris	How I Met	How I Met	WGN News at Nine		Scrubs	Scrubs	South Pk	South Pk	
Premium Channels											
HBO	Boardwalk Empire		Boardwalk Empire		Boardwalk Empire		Real Time/Bill Maher		Love Hap		
MAX	Funny Peo	All About Steve			The Fourth Kind				Co-ed Confidential 2		
SHOW	Staten Island	Inside the NFL			Inside NASCAR		Inside the NFL		Inside NASCAR		

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