

from our viewpoint...

Fixing contract good move by city

City commissioners decided Monday not to approve the animal pound contract without more changes.

Four of the commissioners sat silently when a motion was made to approve the contract as presented, and the motion died for lack of a second.

The four commissioners had each said they did not like the contract because it called for the city to pay the utilities for the proposed animal pound built last year at the Paw Wash on the east edge of the city.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he would not support the contract with the city paying the utilities, and felt in many ways the whole process over the past year had been badly handled.

His point was the city should not be paying the utilities for any private business because the city does not pay any other businesses utilities.

Commissioner Rick Billinger said he agreed, and felt the other clause about the county abating the property taxes was not good either.

Commissioner John Garcia and Mayor Josh Dechant made similar comments against the city paying the utilities.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks, who has been working on the committee to develop the contract, said she understood and agreed the whole process was not handled properly. She said the idea of having the city pay the utilities and the county abate the property taxes was to keep the cost down.

City Manager Doug Gerber, who is a member of the committee, asked the commissioners if the contract could be approved if the utilities were pulled out.

Most of the commissioners agreed taking the clause out would make it more acceptable, and agreed to review the contract at the next commission meeting.

We felt the city commissioners were correct not to approve the contract as it was written, and feel the county commissioners should take similar action to take the plan to abate property taxes out of the contract.

A year ago Police Chief Ray Smee asked the city commission to have an agreement drawn up spelling out what the responsibility and cost should be for the dogs brought into the existing dog pound by Sherman County. For years there has not been any written agreement, and the city and animal shelter volunteers have been caring for all the dogs.

In February a donor stepped up and gave money to build a new animal pound east of town before any discussion or agreements had been drafted. After months of waiting for a draft agreement a select committee went behind closed doors to draft a contract between the city and county and Paw Wash owner on operating the animal pound.

The contract finally agreed to help pay 30 percent of the cost with the city paying the larger share at 70 percent.

For the sake of the animals the new pound will be an improvement, and we know Kathy Schermerhorn will take good care of the animals.

The contract will be cleaner with the two clauses taken out even if that raises the annual contract cost.

Neither the city or county are wedded to staying with the contract after the first 18 months.

This process has taken a lot of twists and turns over the past year, and we feel the action last week was a good move by the city. When the contract comes back we hope it is approved by both the city and county to get this issue solved and move forward onto other things. — *Tom Betz*

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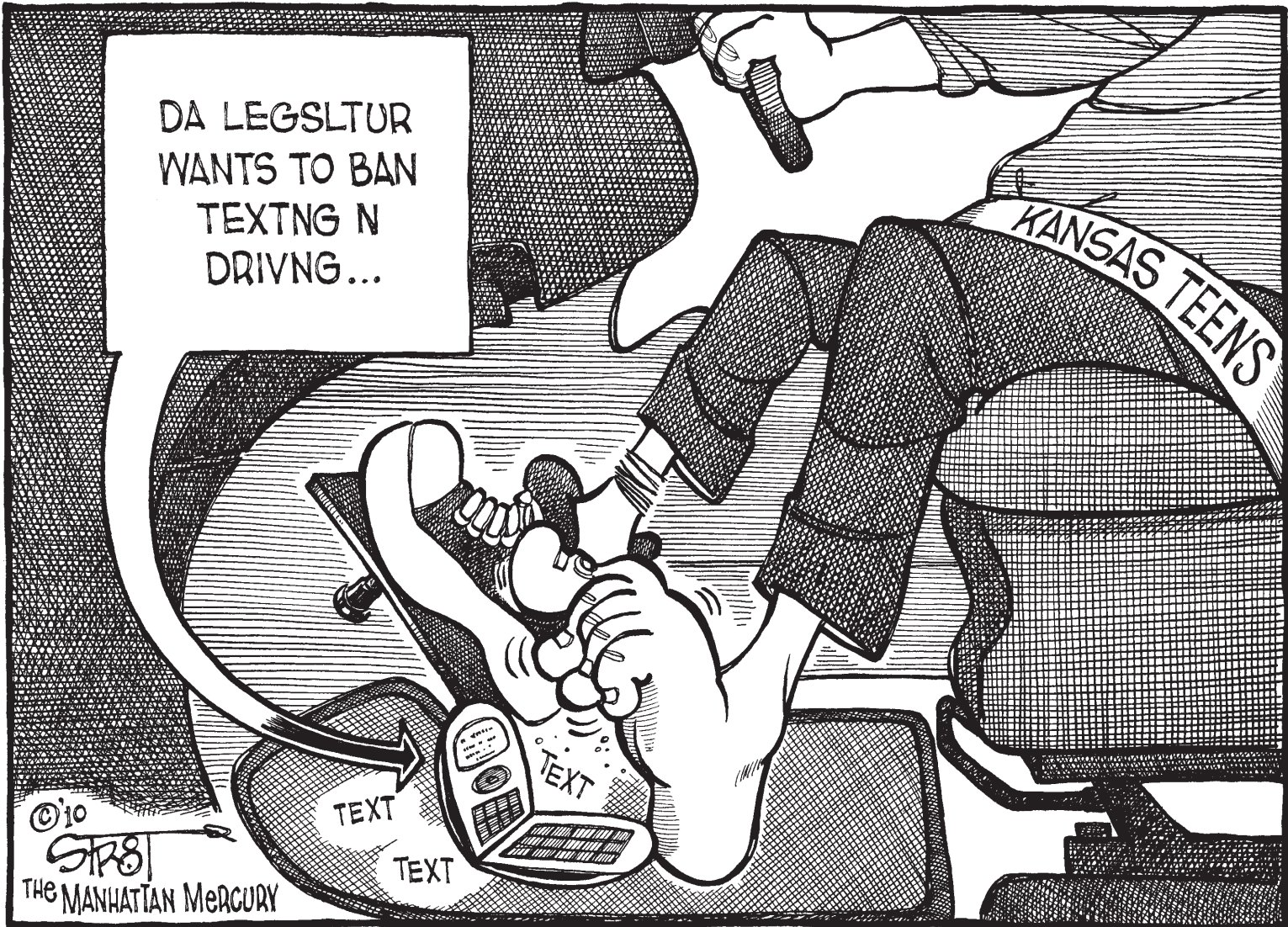
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Fun continues after one year back together

It has been a little more than a year since my wife, Ava, retired from her apartment management job in Lamar, Colo., and moved in with me in my small house.

When I moved to Goodland more than 12 years ago Ava and I decided she should keep her job and we have commuted to each other's town.

To make room for her furniture I had to rent a storage unit and fill about half of it with my stuff. When she moved we filled both the storage unit and the house with her furniture and hobbies.

Things have been good for most of the year, and we have managed to empty a few things out of the house and empty a portion of the storage unit. Hopefully we will get to do more rearranging this year.

Ava is a doll collector and builder of doll houses. She had a couple doll houses under construction in Lamar. We put the larger one in storage and brought the smaller one to the house along with all her dolls and many drawer units of pieces for doll houses.

She has been working on the doll house, and it is close to being done as she is down to the last finishing details for each room.

The cat, Sammie, I got several years ago through the animal shelter has learned to live with the two of us, and Ava has become the one



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who she expects to feed her.

A couple weeks ago we had to take her to Dr. Gary Smith as she had two bad teeth and needed to have them taken out. We had to give her antibiotics for about a week, and Ava would hold Sammie in a towel while it was my job to open her mouth and give her the medicine. Actually Sammie tolerated our efforts, and I think it was because she was getting to feel better and could eat again.

In recent weeks Ava had taken over changing the litter box, and that has been working well until last week.

I woke up early Friday morning to find a wet spot on the quilt, and got up quickly trying to make sure it was not soaking through.

Sammie knew she was in trouble and hid under the furniture. I told Ava the only time Sammie had done that before was when she was sick or when her litter box was really full.

Ava said she had just changed the litter box and we did not think she was sick as we had been giving her the medicine and she was feel-

ing much better.

We washed the quilt and comforter, and Ava was barking at Sammie to keep her off the bed.

I went to work, and later in the morning I got an instant message from Ava saying it was her fault Sammie had wet on the bed.

She went on to say she had changed out the litter on Tuesday, put in a new liner and put the top back on the box. When she looked again on Friday she found she had not put any new litter in the bottom.

Sammie had tried to use the litter box until she could not wade through it. She had been trying to tell us something was wrong meowing and asking us to follow her out to the room where the litter box was located.

We are sure she was thinking the stupid humans did not get the message. She must have thought we were very dumb not getting her message, and she finally found a way to drive it home. However, again the stupid humans did not get it easily as they blamed the feline until the empty litter box was discovered.

It took more than a day before Sammie seemed to have forgiven her companions for the trouble they had caused her.

Ava and I had a good laugh about it as we sprayed the quilt and comforter and got them cleaned, and apologized to Sammie.

An idea for the armory building

To the editor:

Just my two cents worth. Here goes. The armory building, make it a countywide — citywide museum.

The room is there, everything. The floors are reinforced, for antique tractors and heavy equipment, if needed.

Look at the roof bracing. How about an old airplane from the roof? If needed.



from our
readers

• to the editor

Location
Look where Hays put theirs.

Judy, Northwest Tech, Danny get Thumbs

Thumbs Up to Judy Finnegan, "a member of our graduating class, on your exceptional achievements. You made us proud, Judy!" (e-mail request from several members of the Class of 1972); to "Northwest Tech on your name change and selection of the Mavericks for the athletic teams." (email request); to "Danny Krayca for being named Employee of the Quarter by the city council." (email request).

-td-

I received an email from an 11-year-old boy over the weekend, and in all probability was nudged on my his parents to share his idea for the soon to be vacant National Guard Armory. The youngster thought they should turn it into a "roller skating rink." He said the kids his age have no place to skate but "on the sidewalks and in other places where people don't want us to skate."

A businessman emails, "The best possible use seems obvious. MARKET this building to prospective new interests. I don't think there is a better building/location in the region for a manufacturer. Lots of room, office space, communications, parking, highway and airport access, etc. A perfect location to entice new business! Let's get the word out and offer the necessary accommodations to get it filled."

A third suggestion, by telephone, "Don't know if this is legal, but tell them to sell it and use the funds to shore up our school districts budget problems."

What do you think? Email td1@st-tel.net, or call 890-2475.

-td-

Let me brag for a second here. One of my grandsons, Caleb (his dad is Lance), called me Saturday night to tell me how he did that morning in his youth bowling league in downtown



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Spokane, Wash. He rolled a 131, 170 and 130 for a total 431 series. He's been bowling since he was 4 years old under the watchful eye of his dad who is an accomplished bowler in his own right. "So," you say? Well, the reason I point this out is because Caleb is all of 7 years of age. Congrats! Kiddo!

-td-

New Orleans Saints and Super Bowl just doesn't quite go together. But after Sunday's overtime win over the Brett Favre-led Minnesota Vikings, they do go together. This is their first appearance in the super bowl and the game that advanced them was played in the Super Dome in New Orleans. It was not too long ago and the Dome was a shelter for thousands of people driven from their homes by Hurricane Katrina. Good show, New Orleans and your beloved Saints. They will take on the Indianapolis Colts for all the NFL marbles.

-td-

If wind was your thing, this was the place to be over the weekend. I don't know what a bad hair day is — you'll understand that if you glance at the picture that accompanies this column — but the five hairs I do have were even misbehaving. And even with a cap on. Now that's windy!

-td-

Do you ever look at someone you know you should know, but just can't immediately put a name with the face? That happened to

Look at Denver Museum of Natural History location.

What a gold mine for the county and city. Plus no taxpayer money from the taxpayers.

We get a new museum building free for everyone. Plus our kids to!

Gary Garrett
Goodland

me the other day when daughter Denise, son-in-law Darren (Burrows) and granddaughter Samantha, of Colorado and Merna Schroeder of Colby were having lunch at Hank's downtown. This gent came over and he just knew I wouldn't recognize him. But his name was on the tip of my tongue. After a few exchanges I noticed he was doing something that maybe he doesn't realize he does and that's walk back and forth while talking. Suddenly the light went on — it was Dale Schilling someone I've always considered a friend, not socially but friendships many times aren't on that basis. His wife Darlene also ended up by our table and had she been with Dale at the outset I would have known immediately who he was. Darlene hasn't changed at all. I've been gone from the community for 20 years so if I'm a bit slow at coming up with your name, please forgive.

-td-

Have a good evening! And remember you still have time to say something GOOD about GOODland!

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