

from our viewpoint...

Prosperity relies on profit motive

"An entrepreneur is an individual who is willing to risk investing time and money in a business that has the potential to make a profit." — DECA Entrepreneurship Proclamation

A trio of high school students are spending this week promoting entrepreneurship in the schools and throughout the city. Sophomore Jessica Lu, chairman of the club, and freshmen Lauren Abernathy and Andrew Philbrick are working on the project.

Formally proclaimed to be Entrepreneurship Promotion Week, the DECA students are working on a project that may take them to the state competition in Overland Park in March and possibly on to the nationals in April.

They told the city commissioners and members of the Sherman County Economic Development Council they see their efforts as a way to turn around the decline in business in the city.

"We thought that if we taught the community a little bit about entrepreneurship," Lu said, "it would promote the economy."

The three believe they can help by teaching the students the connection between spending money in the city and the economy.

Businesses in Goodland will have fliers developed by the students.

"Every dollar spent in Goodland goes back to our community," the flier says. "By shopping in Goodland, you will prevent businesses from going out of business."

For the businesses in the city this is an important message, and it is good to see these high school students with an understanding of the spirit of entrepreneurship and its economic impact.

In their proclamation the students hit the main points of being in business.

"Goodland's entrepreneurs should have the right to make a profit on the time and money they invest in their businesses."

"Goodland's economic prosperity relies on the profitability of Goodland's businesses."

"The profitability of Goodland's businesses relies on local consumers purchasing from local businesses."

This message is one everyone in the city should embrace, and through the young people the spirit to become a business person needs to be encouraged.

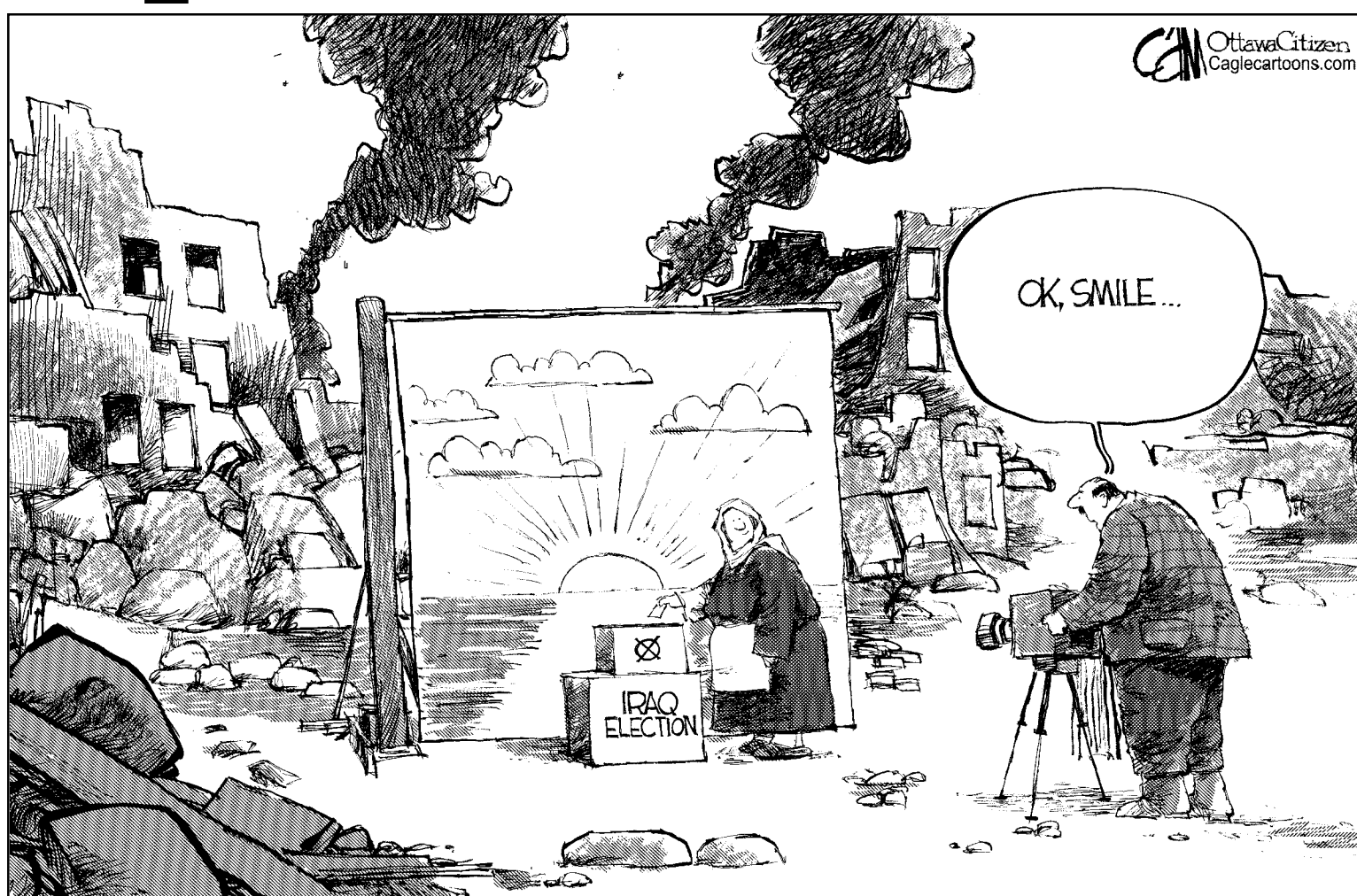
"Consumers need to shop in Goodland more," Philbrick said.

The students said they have noticed trends in the economy here through their research. They said as our economy goes down, it seems like Colby's goes up.

"Goodland was once the leading town," Lu said. "We realized how much the economy has changed."

Every city goes through economic changes, but it is what the city and citizens do with those opportunities which decides whether the changes are for the good or simply maintain the status quo.

Maintaining a healthy business economy is essential to the success of the city, and developing the entrepreneurial spirit in our kids is essential to the future of their success in life. — Tom Betz



A sparrow invaded the Christmas tree

Some people had a partridge in a pear tree over the holidays. I had a sparrow in the Christmas tree.

Steve warned me when I insisted on putting in a pet door that we would be finding more than cats inside the house. He was right.

So far, the cats have brought in a bird every three to four weeks.

Just after Christmas, after the children had all left and Steve was out doing errands, I was trying to solve the world's problems when Molly Monster waltzed into the room with a sparrow in her mouth.

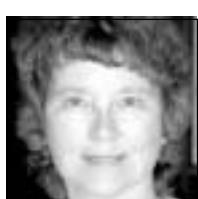
Like a flash, I was after her, but she headed through the kitchen into the dining room, where she let go of her prey. It immediately took flight, headed for the living room.

We both headed after it in hot pursuit.

The bird seemed to be headed for the front window, but suddenly spotted what looked like a safe haven. It dove into the Christmas tree.

The cat and I both came to a screeching halt and started staring intently at the tinsel- and light-festooned branches for a brown wing.

I looked high while Molly looked low, then she jumped onto a chair to check the middle of



cynthia haynes

• open season

the tree. She has better eyes or a better nose, because she came up with the bird first.

However, I was armed with a couple of paper towels and a strong desire to not have more feathers spread all over my house—we'd been through the bird thing before.

I grabbed the bird out of her mouth and headed for the kitchen door with the cat hot on my tail.

I could feel the little heart beating under my hand but figured any bird that had been catted twice probably was a goner. Still, I wanted to toss the corpse as far as I could in hopes that the cat couldn't get it back before I had a chance to run downstairs and block the cat door.

I threw the bird as hard as I could and watched in amazement as it took wing and flew over the neighbor's roof.

Molly was disgusted. I had not only stolen her lunch, I had thrown it away.

I felt good. I had won a battle with a cat, which doesn't happen every day.

A few days later, I wasn't so lucky.

I decided we could get more dogs adopted at the Norton animal shelter if we put their pictures in the paper, so I went out with the animal control officer to take dog pictures.

The dogs were great, though almost impossible to photograph. They were either trying to kiss me or run away. After a lot of laughter and licking, I got the happy faces of three dogs.

There was only one cat at the shelter, and it had escaped. It was hiding under the cat kennels, and I said I would help catch it.

After all the excitement with the dogs, though, the cat was not in a good mood. As soon as I laid hands on it, it turned and went for me with all 10 front claws.

My left hand looks a little like Fearless Leader from the Rocky and Bullwinkle Show.

The scratches aren't deep. It was my own fault. A day later, the animal control officer said she was able to catch the cat with no problem. Timing is everything.

So, I won one and I lost one. Fighting with cats, that's pretty good.

Inauguration over; time to get down to work

President Bush Inaugurated

On Jan. 20, President George W. Bush was inaugurated to his second term as our country's 43rd president. With the president's second term under way, I now hope that Congress and our country are able to put aside the partisan differences that were prevalent throughout the past election year.

I look forward to working with the president in his second term on the issues that are important to states like Kansas, which helped him to be reelected.

Canadian Beef Imports

This week, I called on the U.S. Department of Agriculture to postpone allowing Canadian beef imports until a better understanding of the risks to America beef producers can be reached. Over the past few weeks, Canada has announced three separate, confirmed cases of BSE.

The agriculture department will be sending a team to Canada to investigate that country's compliance with a 1997 ban on the use of feed containing materials from cattle at risk of having BSE. While the U.S. and Canada have similar feed ban regulations, recent reports indicate that the feed ban may have been violated, expanding the risk of BSE in Canadian cattle. It is important that the department fully investigate the effectiveness of the feed ban in Canada before opening these markets. The health of the American beef industry, and the ability to regain export markets, cannot be put at risk.

The department has done a tremendous job of keeping the industry safe from BSE, but before we reopen the borders, an investigation should be completed to ensure that this level of safety will continue.

I also encouraged the department to continue efforts to reopen beef exports to Japan. The Japanese export market accounted for over \$1.39 billion in American exports in 2003.



jerry moran

• in congress

Learning About Pratt Community College

This week, I joined President William Wojciechowski of the Pratt Community College, for a meeting to learn more about the advancements being made to offer courses and education to people in central Kansas. During the hour-long meeting, we discussed the college's automotive technology, ag power technology and nursing education departments.

I also had the opportunity to meet with students in the American Government class and discussed my role as a Member of Congress. We talked about the future of Kansas, the current state of the nation, as well as issues that Congress will be considering in 2005.

Also while in Pratt, I joined Ken Brown and Susan Page of the Pratt County Medical Center for the Pratt Rotary Club Meeting.

Meeting with Officials at the Cloud County Community College

Education issues were also the topic of conversation during my meeting on Friday with President George Knox, of Cloud County Community College in Concordia. We discussed what can be done for President Knox to advance the college's Title III funding application. The college would like to use the funding to enhance academic programs relating to their nursing education, criminal justice and journalism programs. Additionally, we discussed the important issues surrounding the Perkins and Pell grant programs.

Following my meeting with President Knox,

I joined students, faculty and community leaders for a tour of the campus and facilities.

Fort Hays State to Expand Distance Learning in Salina

Also on Friday, I joined the President of Fort Hays State University (FHSU), Dr. Ed Hammond, to announce a new partnership between the university and the Smoky Hill/Central Kansas Education Development Center to give central Kansas residents greater access to higher education.

The interactive television system was launched three years ago, linking classrooms at six community colleges to FHSU. The Salina location will be the newest site. This partnership is possible through funding I helped to obtain through the U.S. Department of Education. The course offerings will be both undergraduate and graduate level courses in everything from education to nursing.

Executive Director of the Central Kansas Education Development Center Rita Cook joined us for the event along with Dennis King, director of FHSU's Virtual College and Learning Technologies.

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