

Enrollment opens for Northwest Tech

This fall, Northwest Tech will offer seven classes in Norton, a move that will offer outreach courses for people in the area.

Norton City/County Economic Development Director Diane Stiles approached the campus in March to propose the idea of having a satellite campus in Norton. The idea was to support local manufacturers, such as Natoma, Corp. and New Age, by offering a manufacturing program.

The idea quickly evolved into having a satellite campus with programs for manufacturing as well as general education courses.

The reality is that it will take five to 10 years before Norton will be able to have a fully-accredited campus. The project will start out slowly, by having an outreach center that offers a limited amount of classes.

The outreach center will benefit Norton in many ways. It will offer students the opportunity to start taking classes while staying in Norton. These classes will be transferable to other community colleges or universities.

Another added benefit is it provides necessary training to manufacturing employees. Gail Boller, Natoma, Corp. president, said he hires local people and spends two years training them. A manufacturing program would give an employee the basic foundation before being hired.

Another benefit, once programs are offered, is increased travel and tourism. Students will have families visiting them, which means money that is put into local hotels, gas stations and restaurants.

The project is coming along with the class schedule, location and instructors decided upon. The most important aspect is enrollment, which prospective students can do by calling 1-800-316-4127 or by going to www.nwktc.edu.

—Erica Bradley

General observations

God must be a man, because after working hard for six days on the seventh, he rested.

Which makes woman the devil, because she never rests.

This isn't the gospel according to Cynthia. It's just a general observation about everyday life in most American homes.

Now, my husband Steve is a hard worker. He puts in five long days at the office most weeks. On Sundays, he mows the yard and edits copy for two papers.

However, after mowing he sits down with his weekly beer and relaxes. And on Saturdays, he takes the day to read, relax and enjoy his favorite hobby—train watching.

He and the dog load up and head for McCook, where they find a nice tree and settle down for a nap between trains. Then Steve reads and the dog protects him from errant squirrels, rabid rabbits and pesky chipmunks.

While Steve is checking out the trains, I'm usually at the office catching up on the book work or dealing drugs at the corner store.

(For those of you who don't know, I was in pharmacy school when I met that cute young reporter. My wedding and my pharmacy license came through the same year—1971.)

My Mondays through Fridays are about the same—do book work for the pa-

Open Season Cynthia Haynes



pers, sports for *The Oberlin Herald* or fill prescriptions in any one of a dozen stores that need occasional pharmacy help.

On Sunday, while Steve is mowing, I weed the gardens and yard, spread the clippings and fight the ever-present elm seedlings.

While Steve has his beer, I go into the house to finish the laundry and start supper. Then it's time to clean up and do the dishes, fold the laundry and put it away, clean the cat boxes and get the trash ready for its Monday pickup and write sports for the paper.

Sometimes I wonder about this, but I figure that I've made my decision. I'd rather have the household chores halfway done than have a beer, especially since I'm not very fond of beer.

And Steve. Well, he says he'll be glad to help me. But, it's the Sabbath, you know, the day of rest.

I think I ought to give him a quick jab with my pitchfork!

Wrong about Kagan

Dear Editor: Mary Kay was wrong about Elena Kagan.

Kagan is a typical hate-God, hate-Bush, hate-America Obama socialist puppet. Her confirmation to the Supreme Court would be a danger and an insult to all real Americans.

R.W. Yeager
Norton



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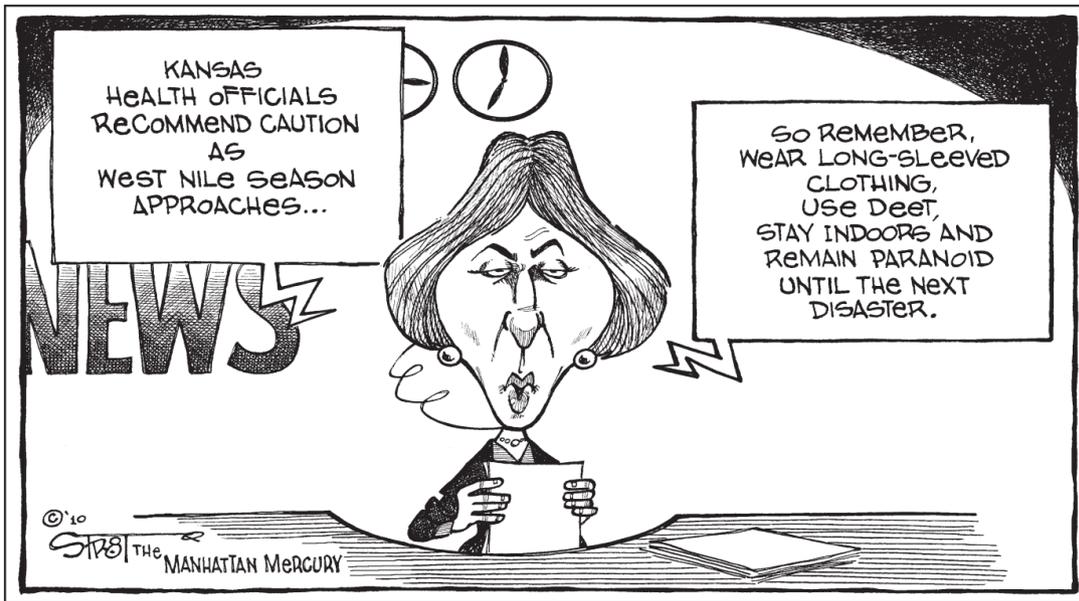
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A special honor

Dear Editor: It is a special honor for me to serve as your State Treasurer and one of my favorite parts of this job is the opportunity to reunite Kansans with their unclaimed property.

As your State Treasurer I am responsible for property and financial assets that belong to Kansans but remain unclaimed for one reason or another. I am committed to returning as much of this property to its rightful owners as possible.

Unclaimed property can come in many forms. It can be inactive savings and checking accounts, un-cashed checks, stock shares, mutual funds, bonds, dividend checks, insurance proceeds, mineral royalties, utility deposits and in some cases safe deposit box contents. Did you remember to pick up that last payroll check from your previous employer?



Have you ever had a check not survive a trip through the washing machine but not sure who to contact to get a new one? Companies are required to send those funds to our unclaimed property division.

Recently my staff made a special focus on locating property owners in Norton county. In fact we were able to mail 221 claim packets as the first step to reconnect these Kansans with their money.

However, there are still 1,389 unclaimed properties valued at almost \$142,997.33 in Norton County alone being held by the State Treasurer's Office, so I would encourage everyone to take a couple of minutes to see if any of that property belongs to you or someone you know. You can check to see if you have unclaimed property by visiting our website kansascash.com or call our toll free unclaimed property line at 1-800-432-0386.

I want all Kansans to know there are no fees involved in searching for or claiming their property from our Treasurer's office. If my office may be of assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Dennis McKinney
Treasurer of the State of Kansas

Killing the American Dream

The American Dream Tracey Mann



For the first time this year, I saw a fireworks stand being put up just east of Great Bend as I returned home to Salina after campaign events in Garden City and Dodge City last week. My heart pounded with patriotic pride as I reflected on the great gift that we have all been given by being Americans. However, that feeling quickly turned to anxiety at the direction of our country and then frustration at the politicians that are taking us there.

Simply put, politicians are killing the American Dream. For more than two hundred years, Americans could look ahead with the satisfaction that the generations that would come after them would inherit a country with more opportunity than ever before and more hopes of happiness, prosperity and the freedom to live life to the fullest. Sadly, that is no longer the case.

Politicians have frequently chosen to look after their own careers and not the interests of the country. Too often they are working to win re-election or get promoted to the next political office rather than doing what is right for "we the people." The result? A federal government that has doubled in size in the past ten years, a \$1.5 trillion dollar deficit adding onto our crippling \$13 trillion

national debt, a federal takeover of health care, a border that is not secure, a national unemployment rate hovering around 10 percent and a country that is not willing to stand up for life, traditional marriage, the second amendment or our veterans. It is hard to believe that future generations will have the same opportunities that we have had.

So how did we get to this place? One bad decision at a time. How are we going to get out of it? We must stop promoting politicians and instead elect leaders with experience in small business and agriculture. Our Founding Fathers never intended for a political resume to be a requirement to serve in Congress. It is time for a generation of public servants of all ages without political backgrounds willing to make hard decisions now instead of passing the buck to the next generation. We need servant leaders more

concerned with doing their job than with keeping their job and who are willing to make decisions that are best for America regardless of popularity or whether or not they will win the next election.

During my campaign for Congress, I have released my Mann Plan to get our country and Congress back on track. Though not popular with many in Washington, I have been surprised and humbled by how it has been positively received as I have spoken about it in every one of the 69 counties that make up the Big First.

I believe our campaign is on the right track because I know that this campaign is not about me, or any of the candidates. It is about you. It is about "We the People." It is about you telling the government what to do, not the government telling you what to do. It is about the enduring dream that says when you work hard, play by the rules and try to care for your family, you can leave the next generation a little better off. If the people of the 1st District decide I'm the best person to represent them in Congress they can know that I'll never forget who I represent and, more importantly, I'll never forget the ideas and dream that has made this country great.

Responsibility rests on us

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



As much as we would like to blame BP or the federal government, the responsibility for the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico rests solely at our feet, you and me. We have offshore drilling because of our increasing demand for petroleum in its various states, and I'm as guilty as the next in my desire for these products.

It isn't as if we were unaware of the dangers of offshore drilling. Since those first drilling rigs appeared off the coast of California in the late 1800's, groups have voiced concern over the impact of oil accidents. Although this isn't the first oil spill disaster it is the largest in the history of our country.

If we had stayed focused in the mid to late 1970's when OPEC enacted an oil embargo, we would be enjoying energy without the high demand for oil. Long lines at the gas station haven't faded from my mind and yet we still remain, as George W. phrased it, oil addicted.

Another problem to consider is one of national security. It is a bit like the fox guarding the hen house. Although we are consistently importing less oil from the Middle East than in previous decades we still rely on this region and their oil supply. We receive approximately 20 percent of our oil from the Middle East, one of the most politically unstable areas of the world and not always our ally.

During the oil embargo, Brazil made a conscious decision to reduce the amount of imported oil and subsequently developed alternative fuel sources and vehicles to match. In 2007, Brazil received nearly 50 percent of its energy from renewable

sources compared to about 7 percent in the United States. It isn't for lack of effort, and with some modest success that the United States is dependent on foreign oil, but unfortunately strong lobbies, political interests and a society that wants immediate results prevail.

It isn't that oil is bad. It isn't that all drilling should cease, but so much is at stake with offshore rigs. They are difficult to access to correct problems and to inspect. The deterioration of a rig is nearly impossible to calculate and the long term consequences of a major spill are currently playing out.

Now is the time to set aside political differences and learn from this tragedy. Individually we can better monitor our own fuel consumption and as a country we can adopt an energy plan using alternative sources, funding it and retraining workers. Working together we can turn this incredible negative into a national positive.