

Dear Mrs. Woodyard,

I read your article in the 10 May 13 Norton Telegram, you asked can someone explain how background checks infringe upon the 2nd Amendment rights. Well you see there again you are only looking at one portion of the fight against gun rights of the citizen by the democrats. But, if you want to understand what the fight about background checks is all about it is because there is already a system of background checks set up that is not being enforced by the government. So why should the focus of all of the recent mass shootings be on the background check that worked in CT stopping the kid from buying guns and forcing him to have to steal his mother's guns. The focus should be on the person that commits the crime not making a new standard that takes away from law abiding citizens.

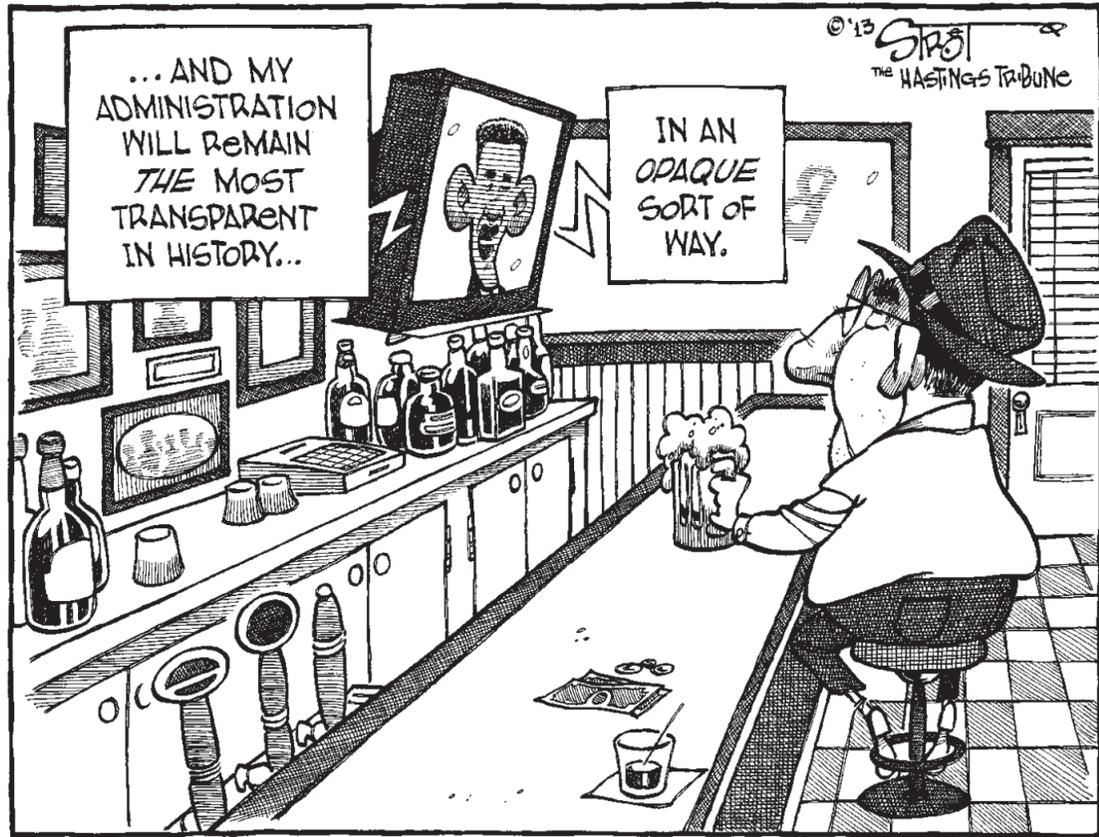
No if you look further into the other laws that go along with the background checks that are trying to make their way through the system, they are to limit the type of guns that can be purchased and the size of the magazine. Who can honestly tell a law abiding citizen what they feel is a perfect type of gun they can or can't purchase to use for protection, hunting, sports shooting, or to own because that citizen wants to own it and they are breaking no laws? Why are we stopping there limiting the size of a vehicle a person can own, size of a house for certain sizes of families, amount of land to purchase and live on, or phone plan? These can all be based on the same facts of misconceptions that if the government can enforce the type of legal weapons that citizens can own then why not more items.

Is America not the land of the free? Are law abiding citizens not allowed to make their own choices? Does the government have to regulate every portion of the free nation? If America is truly a nation of freedom then the citizen should be able to purchase any type of weapon they want for whatever reason that the citizen chooses. The background checks that are in place now are adequate if there was a follow through of enforcement of individuals that fail to pass the checks. New background checks will do nothing more than the checks that are currently in place.

The fear that there is now with the passing of new background check is that a data base with addresses will be kept by the government and the majority of the civilian populous doesn't trust the current administration when it comes to the second amendment.

My question to you is when are you going to talk about the new findings in the Benghazi whistle blowers? I can't wait to hear your theory on that.

Jeff Burton



Something old and something new

One of my work assignments last week was to write a short story about a couple of the anniversary classes that graduated from my home town's alma mater. Don't tell my editor, but he should have paid me by the story, rather than by the hour.

My research lead me to flip through the pages of the archived newspapers. That, of course, lead me to run across my mother's old columns. Which, of course, lead me to read them. Which, of course, took time. Lots of time.

That was fine. I expected to find my mother's columns in the archives. But then - wait a minute. Who was that? It was me. There was my mug shot above a new column called, "OutBack." It was a little unsettling to find myself in the archives. This February marked 15 years of me sharing most everything about my life and my family with you. My husband, Jim, calls it, "Life in the goldfish bowl."

I say, "most everything," because Jim does censor what I write. After getting, what he called "flack," from the locals when some of my early columns were a little too personal he now gets first right of refusal. Doesn't matter what time of the night I might finish writing this column, I have to read it to him. Sometimes he says, "You can't write that!" Usually, though, it's, "That's a good one." Which I consider high praise.

-ob-

It was another rodeo at our house. After acquiring our first calf, Cocoa, from Dave our farmer/rancher friend, Jim thought she needed a companion and bought a little heifer at the sale barn. Friday night Dave called to tell us he had an orphan calf, a little steer,

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



if we wanted him. The baby's mother had died and another nursing cow wouldn't accept him.

"Sure," we said. And off to the ranch we went to pick him up. I had visions of a weak, day old calf that I could hold in my lap on the trip home. Upon arrival, we find a very healthy, very heavy, kicking and bawling two-month old Hereford calf who did not like us at all. There would be no lap-sitting.

It took some doing, but we finally contained him in the back of the pickup and delivered him to his new home. Cocoa and the, as-yet-still-unnamed, other little heifer sniffed him when we pushed him into their pen, but basically ignored him. As long as he didn't get in their way when they saw supper coming, they didn't pay him any mind.

The first bottle feeding didn't go well. He wouldn't have a thing to do with it. I pried his mouth open and forced the bottle's nipple in. He wouldn't do a thing. Milk was running out the sides of his mouth, but he wouldn't swallow. I bent over him as long as my back could endure, then I quit and shared his bottle with the two girls.

The next feeding wasn't any better. However, the third feeding was a different story. He finally got the hang of it and drained the two-quart bottle of milk replacement in about one minute. He's going to be just fine. Now, to get him named. I need to send another

picture to our granddaughter, Ani, so she can make sure his name suits his "style."

-ob-

Memorial Day is almost here and, except for lilacs and a few dandelions, I don't have a single flower on the place. This unpredictable weather has caused confusion, even amongst the plants. They don't know if it's winter, summer or spring. So, even though I prefer to put a variety of fresh flowers on our family members' graves, this year it may be lilacs and lilacs only.

-ob-

We lost a dear friend this week. Rea Magers has been part of my life since before I was born. He was a good man and a smart man who had an opinion on most things. He wasn't bashful about sharing his opinion either. His opinions were well-thought out and he could easily defend his stand in a debate. I doubt there was a local newspaper editor or radio station manager who did not get at least one letter from Rea with a "suggestion" on how they could improve.

When he retired from his first career, he and his wife Dee moved to our little town and they began second careers as antique dealers. Soon, they were permanent fixtures at auctions, often competing with my mother for the best box of junkie.

Rea loved dogs. Scarcely a day went by that you would not see Rea and Dee, always together, walking their dogs. The walks were for exercise, of course, but they were never in such a rush that they couldn't stop and chat awhile.

So, we'll miss him. But we won't say, "Goodbye." Just, "See 'ya later."

The correlation between hair whorls and temperament

Has the temperament of your cattle changed in the past ten years? If so, you are not alone. Ranchers have reported an increase in poor mothering. Recent studies have shown that this may be a result of intensive selection to obtain more docile cows. Studies have also shown that calm tempered beef cattle improve the chance for increased weight gain and meat quality.

Research done by Temple Grandin in 1996 at Colorado State University found a correlation between hair whorl patterns on cattle's foreheads and temperament. Since then, more studies have been conducted. CSU graduate student, Cornelia Flörcke, recently spent three months on a Red Angus ranch in Colorado to learn more about how different cows protect their newborn calves. The increasing concern is, how will cows protect their calves as the wolf population increases.

Vet tips Dr. Aaron White



The recent research supported Temple Grandin's previous findings. Interestingly enough, the research also found an interesting age effect. The older more experienced cows were more protective of their calves at a greater distance when challenged than younger cows.

Most cattle have a spiral hair whorl somewhere in the middle of their forehead. These hair whorls are categorized as high (above the level of the cow's eyes), medium (on the same plane as the cow's eyes), or low (below the level of the cow's eyes). Cattle with

high spiral hair whorl or multiple hair whorls on the forehead tend to be more agitated when handled in a squeeze chute, auction ring, or out in the pasture when threatened. These animals are more vigilant concerning their calves..

Often times cattle are called "wild", but this may indicate the valuable protective traits that protect the calf, vigilance, not aggression. Cattle with high hair whorls have often been observed to be willing to approach people. Perhaps there are more genetic factors that affect mothering behavior and protectiveness. More research is needed. The height of hair whorls should not be over looked. The beef industry does not want poor mothers who abandon their calves! The ideal mother cow protects her calf against predators without becoming dangerously aggressive toward people.



The band may be small, but they sounded great on Wednesday! Good job musicians. Thank you Mr. Kinsey for fun and entertaining songs. Emailed in.

Thumbs up to the Norton High School band and their wonderful director, Mr. Kinsey. Your concert Tuesday night was the best Norton High School concert I have ever attended. The music choices were wonderful and I have never seen so many toes tapping and heads bobbing. We will be losing a fantastic director. Good luck Mr. Kinsey. Emailed in.

What a great community and such kind people! I would like to give a thumbs up to the couple that not only paid for their lunch but also for mine. When I got to the Dairy Queen drive thru the friendly clerk said I can't take your money today. Your kindness is just what I needed that day and reminded me to reflect on what is important in life.

Pay It Forward! I have now returned the favor to another and Thanks again for your kindness. Emailed in.

Remember there is no charge for rendering a Thumbs Up. Thumbs Up are meant to give recognition for a positive person or event in the community. Also remember all Letters to the Editor must be signed.

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