

Governor vetoes legalization of charity raffles

On the
Prairie Dog
Steve Haynes



While we're sympathetic with the goal of a bill that attempted to legalize charity raffles in Kansas, we agree with Gov. Sam Brownback, who vetoed the bill as unconstitutional.

The Kansas Constitution is quite specific on this issue, at Article 15, Section 3, which says:

"Lotteries and the sale of lottery tickets are forever prohibited."

A lottery is defined in law as any game or scheme which includes three elements: chance, a reward and a consideration, or price. That certainly includes selling tickets at \$1 each or six for \$5 to raise money for a little girl with cancer or a church that needs money for a new air conditioner.

Section 3 does include three exceptions approved by voters in recent decades, for licensed horse and dog tracks, and now casinos; for charitable Bingo games as regulated by law; and for the state lottery, a big-time moneymaker for the state.

We all know that churches, civic and fraternal groups, lodges and clubs, and just plain people, have been holding drawings and other lotteries for years to raise money for good causes. It's been going on a long time, probably longer than it's been prohibited by the Kansas Constitution.

At the newspaper, we know this, because we have to turn down dozens of ads each year from well-meaning charitable organizations trying to raise money for — you guessed it — a good cause.

However, it's against the law to promote an illegal lottery. It's also against federal postal regulations. We just can't take those ads, though we maintain under the First Amendment we can and do write news stories about these drawings. (Our one rule is that in return, we require the group holding the drawing to report its income from an event.)

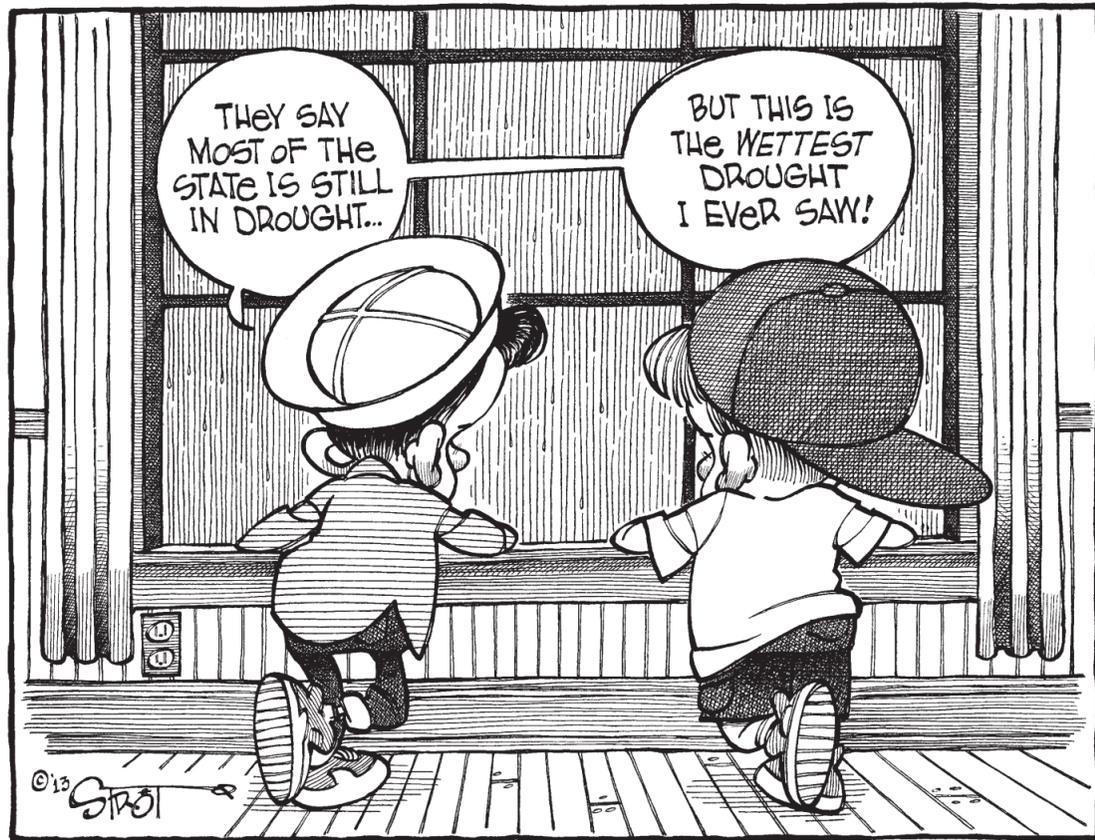
We see no harm in making charitable lotteries legal in Kansas, but agree that the Legislature needs to do this right by passing a constitutional amendment for voters to decide. We think they'd go along.

While we know of no Kansas county where authorities have prosecuted a church or veterans' post for holding an illegal lottery, we question the wisdom of having a law that makes criminals out of well-intentioned people.

So it'll be up to the 2014 Legislature to do this over, do it well and get the issue on the ballot for the next election. Clubs and fraternal groups that have been breaking the law for decades can wait another year or two to come out into the sunshine.

With all the legal gambling going on in this state, in fact, it's a wonder that no one ever thought of covering this gap before now.

— Steve Haynes



The toughest job you will ever love

Although there are many incredible parents out there, we all know there are some who fail miserably in the parenting department. As a parent, I did the best I could at any given time, but I, as well as others, have been known to say, "If I had it to do over again, I would..."

We generally parent as we were parented. This can have a positive outcome, or unfortunately a negative one. The evening news supplies us with all too many tales of the tragedies that occur because of poor parenting. To say parenting has changed in the last half century, is certainly true. Some of those changes are better and others, not so much.

Last week, Jack and I watched silently as two robins undertook new and challenging parenting. It was after the hard winds of Friday and three baby robins were blown out of their nest from a tree in our back yard. We

Phase II
Mary Kay
Woodyard



watched in awe as the mother and father took turns feeding and protecting their fragile offspring. One would fly to get food and the other would stand watch, chasing off any thing which might be viewed as a threat.

Jack and I nervously cast glances around the yard, in fear of the seemingly ever present feral cats, who seem to feel quite at home in our neighborhood. Sometimes one robin would flare its wings and draw the young bird or birds under its body. Other times the adult would move back, as if to allow the baby to begin to "spread its wings."

Most robins die during their first year of life, so the odds were definitely not in the babies' favor. Once the birds have withstood the dangers of their early life, their chance of survival increases. After three days of watching the babies' struggle and the parents' dedication, the babies seemed to have beaten the odds and survived. At least that is what we choose to believe.

Our family doctor in Reno told all parents, as they left the hospital with their newborn in tow, "Remember, this baby came to live with you, you didn't go to live with this baby."

Too frequently in humans, parenting is based on children's wants, rather than what is in a child's best interest. Our feathered parents determined their actions based not on what was comfortable for the babies, but what was necessary for their survival. Mail to: mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

Treating our pets as another one of the family

I once heard a speaker compare her relationship with her dogs to God's with us.

Pets cause a great deal of trouble. But as "Masters" we choose, protect, provide for and love them! We also must set down rules and discipline them.

It astounds me how crazy people are about their pets. My grandbaby, Morris, has to share the spotlight with Emaw, the family cat. Emaw is a well behaved (for a cat); though not half as well behaved as his owners believe.

On the other hand daughter Kate's cats, Linus and Domino, walk all over their master. Patricia and Craig frown in disapproval! Emaw would never get on the kitchen cabinets!

Oh yeah? I filled the pantry while they were at the hospital with Morris. As we were carrying the groceries in the hubby found Emaw on the counter checking out the menu for the next few days.

I hurriedly put everything away; except the bread.

When I returned from the hospital that evening I found holes in the bread sack and a couple of dainty bites gone. Either Emaw was not very hungry or he doesn't like sourdough bread!

I told his owners, but until they were home and saw the evidence for themselves, they seemed to think I was making it up!

Meanwhile Linus escaped from the screen porch at Kate's house. After a stressful time away, like the Prodigal Son, he found his way back and was welcomed with joy by his master.

This Too
Shall Pass
Nancy
Hagman



The dutiful Domino, who in Linus' absence decided she was the Alpha cat, responded badly. A saga of Biblical proportions is ongoing!

Domino is the Cain to Linus' Abel. Murder is in her heart.

My niece, Jill, had two pets: a dog, Toby, and a cat, Gracie. They chose them from the pound. Toby had behavior problems. Good masters, Jill and Dusty, trained him. He went to "school" and later to doggy daycare where he could run and play with other dogs.

Toby has a toy box he opens himself. He will bring the toy requested. When play time is over he picks up his toys and puts them away.

I found this vastly amusing. Good luck getting your kids to do that!

When their child, Lorelei, came both pets were accepting and loving.

Pets are wonderful for children. Children who grow up around animals have fewer allergies. Pets also teach a child empathy and responsibility.

Farm pets come and go. At our house we are apparently not very good masters; especially when it comes to cats. Life is very hard for farm cats, when the dog is Lamont! As nice a life as Jill has provided for Toby, Lamont's

is even better. He has absolutely no responsibilities. When I die I'm coming back as a farm dog.

Speaking of death, sad as it is to see our animals die, I believe it helps children learn about the cycle of life.

Where else are they going to learn? My daughter, Elizabeth says it is no longer PC to sing about the old woman who swallowed a fly. "I don't know why she swallowed a fly, I guess she'll die!"

Some brain trust decided singing about death traumatizes kids—especially the last line "She's dead, of course!" I suggest the book *The Uses of Enchantment* by Bruno Bettelheim. Children need acceptable ways to voice their fears.

A while back Gracie developed a condition that caused her to need a kitty sized IV every day! Recently Toby became ill. A trip to the vet revealed an inoperable tumor. He was given perhaps only days to live.

Two days later, Gracie died. Lorelei, 2 and a half, has a limited idea of what happened to Gracie, but at least she has one! And she's mad! The family faces a decision: do we want more pets?

I'm promoting an adoption! Either Linus or Domino, although neither would be the gentle playmate Lorelei is accustomed to.

The dilemmas loving masters face! It ought to increase our resolve to deserve the grace imparted to us by our Master. Most of us cause a lot more trouble than cats and dogs!

Dear Editor,
To all of you who were friends or family of Daniel Riemann, killed by a drunk driver on Mother's Day 2008, you can read the full page front cover article in the Kansas City Star Saturday, May 25 issue. The link is www.kansasacity.com/2013/05/25/4256631/afternoon'sdeath. Thank you all for your prayers over the last five years.

Sincerely,
Kelly Riemann



Thumbs up to Vendla Tacha. Keep smiling! Your brownies are good and so are you! From old friends. Emailed in.

Welcome back to Wai Chau Lau and Yuet Wah Loo, Hidden Dragon's original owners, for returning to Norton to take over the restaurant. We look forward to your reopening. Emailed in.



Two thumbs up all the way to Ardith Scheetz for an excellent, factual, educational & well-spoken letter to the editor! Thank you, Ardith, for speaking the truth. May God Bless You! E-mailed in.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

OFFICE HOURS:
8 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Thur.
8 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Friday
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732

E-mail:
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Dana Paxton..... General Manager
Advertising Director/Managing Editor
email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com
Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay Sports
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Michael Stephens..... Reporter
Society Editor/Area Sports
mstephens@nwkansas.com
Vicki Henderson..... Computer Production
Marcia Shelton..... Office Manager

ISSN 1063-701X
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002

Kansas Press Association



Letters to the Editor and Thumbs Up: e-mail dpaxton@nwkansas.com or to write 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kansas 67654