

Cattlemen express value of Kansas farm law

Last week, the Kansas Judicial Advisory Committee, with pressure from some Kansas legislators, the administration, and multinational corporations citing constitutional concerns, recommended that the Kansas corporate farming law be rewritten so that multinational corporations be allowed to buy up Kansas' natural resources and penetrate rural communities.

In recent years, large farming corporations have tried to move into Kansas, but have been met with a Kansas law that limits corporate involvement in agriculture, protecting the interests of Kansans by prohibiting corporations from owning or leasing agricultural land in Kansas. The law does make exemptions for family farm corporations and other small corporations and partnerships formed by Kansans. The law also makes exceptions for forest and nursery products, swine, rabbits, poultry, dairy and feedlot operations.

"This law was put in place by our Kansas legislators more than 80 years ago to protect our economy and rural communities and provide opportunities for Kansas farmers and ranchers to compete in the marketplace," said Brandy Carter, chief executive officer of the association. "Now, because of corporate interests, there are people that want to repeal or re-write this law. They are using constitutionality as their way out of this law, but no court has found the Kansas law to be unconstitutional.

"There have been arguments that bringing large farm corporations in will help rural communities. However, these large farm corporations will compete with independent producers. Moreover, these out-of-state and foreign-owned businesses do not help rejuvenate rural communities. Money leaves the community.

Farming operations, owned by Kansans and local residents put money into the community, they have ties to the community and work collaboratively with neighbors to put value into the community."

The association maintains that it is important to maintain Kansas corporate farming laws.

"Small businesses, which consist of independent operations, are the backbone of Kansas' economy. Independent producers, often living on the land, and family operations are not just a business though," Carter said, "but a way of life. They have a vested interest in environmental stewardship because the land remains in the family for generations.

"Most importantly, food confidence and food safety are critical to our nation's health. Sourcing food from a larger number of smaller producers helps prevent mass contamination and protects the food system providing safe food for consumers.

"This year, there seemed to be a lot of pressure on legislators in the Statehouse by corporate interests and ag groups and leaders with corporate ties. There was a big lobbying push to change this law. Because it did not happen, other avenues are being used to circumvent the process of having the people being heard and represented.

"What is unfortunate in the effort to address constitutionality by rewriting this law, local and county rights could be taken away from the people of Kansas. The association hopes that legislators will stand up and represent the people who voted them into office and value what Kansas farmers bring to their communities."

Brandy Carter, Junction City executive director
Kansas Cattlemen's Association



At the mercy of the health and justice systems

When a doctor says it is a routine procedure, I always want to ask, for whom? You or the patient? Nothing reflects this as much as the 13 year old California youth who has now been declared brain dead, following a "routine" tonsillectomy. Life support was scheduled to be disconnected at 5:00 P.M. Monday, December 30th, but the court has given an extension, until January 7th, to determine her fate. Either the family will find a treatment facility and she will remain on life support or she will be disconnected and die. No matter what, everyone loses. The 13 year old girl underwent a procedure with the belief she would awaken; her family and friends struggle with "how could this have happened"; medical professionals wrestle with themselves over a tragic outcome, and ethicists grapple with what is right.

We talk so much of end of life planning in terms of the elderly, but the real

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



struggles and anguish with end of life decisions are in the young. The young pregnant mother, the teen in a deadly car crash, or a 13 year old tonsillectomy patient all who border on death. Remember the Terri Schiavo case? President George W. Bush signed the Palm Sunday Compromise designed to keep Terri Schiavo alive. For 15 years, 14 appeals and numerous lawsuits she had been kept alive through a feeding tube. Her parents and her husband differed in the assessment of her condition and her desire for life, initiating both a

medical and legal dilemma.

The young girl at the center of the current debate is at the mercy of the health and justice systems. To the parents, she is alive. To the health professionals, without brain activity, she is dead. To the justice system, legal issues must be addressed. Until January 7th, Jahi McMath will remain on life support. At that time, another series of legal actions will determine what happens. As one commentator noted, many years ago death was one level... dead. Without the machines to extend life, when the heart stopped so did life. Now there is a vegetative state, as in the Terri Schiavo case, or, as in the case of this young girl, brain dead.

My heart aches for all involved, but one thing is for sure, death remains a journey, not an event; a loss no matter the circumstances; and tragic no matter how routine. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

CITY OF NORTON ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor: David Corns
785-202-1305
dcorns@ruraltel.net

WARD I

Jerry Jones
785-877-2170
Harriett Gill
785-877-3051

WARD II

Roberta Ryan
785-877-2182
Donna Foley
785-877-3585
rockonmom_43@hotmail.com

WARD III

Ron Briery
785-877-3807
Jeff Urban
785-877-5535



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



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.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

E-mail: nortontelegram@nwkans.com

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, 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

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

STAFF

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



Remembering the good old days

I'm going to tell you a story and I hope you laugh.

Many, many years ago four young ladies went to Aggieville on a cold January night. They went to Kite's: the Frat Bar. Being GDI's none of them had been in there before. It was a Monday so things were pretty quiet. They ordered a pitcher of beer.

For the youngsters, beer pitchers used to be glass. It was heavy thick glass. Probably because it made it seem like there was more beer if you didn't take into account how much less volume you were getting because of the thick glass. I'm really not sure how it works, let's face it: no one went to Aggieville to do math!

Nonetheless it was considered cool to possess a heavy glass beer pitcher or a mug or whatever. Some bars stationed a bouncer by the door to prevent such transfer of ownership. Kite's did.

Ahhhh youth, after the beer was gone the girls decided it would be fun to have a beer pitcher for the dorm room.

One of them brazenly picked up the pitcher, put her coat over it, walked by the bouncer, and out the door.

It was his fault really. It was a Monday. Things were very slow. He should have been paying closer attention.

The beer pitcher languished in her various abodes for years and years. She had children and a son-in-law or two and a grandchild. She told them about the pitcher. It became sort of a legend because she really was a nice person. Not the sort you would think pilfered

This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



random service ware from bars and restaurants.

One son-in-law was particularly intrigued by the pitcher. He attended the same college and I'm guessing spent a lot more time in Kite's than his mother-in-law. He is now a home owner; the previous owners left a huge U-shaped bar in the basement.

It seems a tad useless. He said, yeah, I could have a keg here, but I hardly ever drink. It was suggested he cut the bar off to table height and get an office chair. Then when his mother-in-law came she could set her sewing machines on it and have a great time.

"If my mother-in-law starts spending that much time here, I'll need a keg." was his reply. Kids today are so disrespectful! Whatever happened to nice kids, the ones who went to Aggieville on Monday nights---never mind---

Of all the Aggieville bars of my youth, Kite's is the only one that remains under the same name and in the same location. It no longer has a reputation of being a Frat Bar. They serve food, even having another location, where they mostly served food, for a

time. The food is very good.

Kite's also manages Rusty's. The owner of Kite's is Rusty. We know this because at Christmas the lady in possession of the pitcher decided to gift it to the admiring son-in-law. Nothing says "I love you and you are fully accepted into the family" like a hot beer pitcher. But just in case the story was ever forgotten it seemed like a good idea to get it authenticated. So call Kite's. Talk to Bo.

"Bo, I'm going to tell you a story and I hope you laugh."

He did.

He said "those pitchers are pretty rare. I'd like to have one myself."

It would have been pushing one's luck to ask how much it would be worth to him to own it, I suppose!

Bo was very helpful. He offered to print a Certificate of Authentication on some nice cardstock complete with Rusty's signature.

He expressed concern it would not arrive in time for Christmas. No worries, this matriarch's beautiful family was not celebrating Christmas until the 28th!

The packet arrived in time. Bo included quite a nice amount of food vouchers for Rusty's and Kite's.

Who says crime doesn't pay?

Next time you find yourself in Aggieville, visit Kite's. I highly recommend it, and stop by on your way, I'm not confessing to anything, but I do have some gift certificates!

Call Dana for your next ad.
785 - 877 - 3361!