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Republican

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The Coffey County Republican encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

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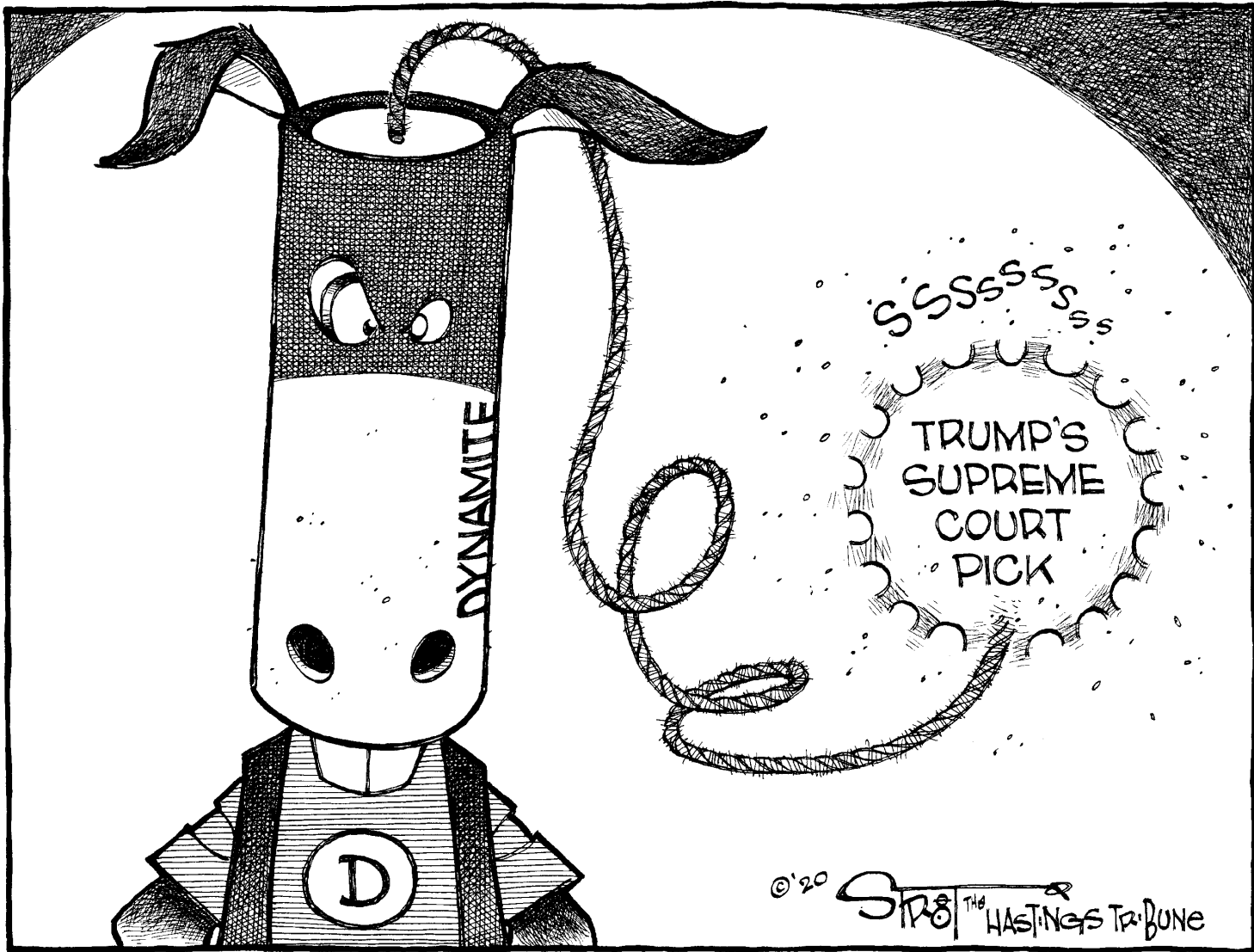
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Drawer A,
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Letters to the Editor

What R you?

Dear Editor:

You just moved to California. You decide to run in a partisan election. When in Rome, do as the Romans, thus when in California will become a Democrat.

Tacking a D behind your name means you are anti-life, support the LGBT agenda, and demand that the Second Amendment be removed from the Constitution. You demand that services provided to citizens, i.e., medical, education, etc., must be controlled by the government. NOT ON YOUR LIFE, says you.

You declare, "If I believe in the sanctity of life, Biblical marriage and the Second Amendment, I would never put a D after my name. Anyone who would change their party just to run for office cannot be trusted."

You BELIEVE that there are absolute standards. Standards the Declaration of Independence and Constitution say are inalienable, because they are established by an absolute authority, a sovereign

God. They are not based on evolution, i.e., the most advanced can do what they want to their inferiors, abortion and racism, because of survival of the fittest. You believe standards are based on absolutes, not chance events in a random universe, subject to the whims of man.

The 2020 Coffey County Clerk election is a classic case of "Standards are expendable" when running for office. The Republican primary saw the incumbent County Clerk, a longtime Republican, running against an opponent who first registered as a Democrat in 1994, then found it expedient to register as an R in January, just before she filed to run as the County Clerk in the 2020 Primary. Twenty-six years tagged with a D as a supporter of abortion, the LGBT agenda and abolishing the Second Amendment, then changing parties to run for office.

In the General election we have the incumbent Republican running against a Democrat? Well, maybe she is currently a Democrat, but she had filed for the 2020 Primary as a Republican, then when she saw there were two other Re-

publican candidates in the Primary, she withdrew and refiled as a Democrat. As a kicker, Donna Wallace was a Democrat before she became a Republican before she again became a Democrat to run unopposed in the 2020 Democrat primary.

Whatever Donna Wallace believes, she has no problem changing what she stands for to win an election. Will she approach the rules of her office in the same manner, to keep friends? As Scripture notes in Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

Angie Kirchner runs a tight ship and has helped save the taxpayers an enormous amount of taxpayer dollars in medical insurance. During elections she performs tasks normally performed by outside contractors, saving even more money. She also is, has been, and will be a Republican that will stand up for the Republican Platform and our Constitution.

Respectfully,
Don Small
Coffey County Republican Chairman

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK OCT. 4-10

Your local newspaper: The real deal

While no one should ever say "I know it's real because I saw it on the internet," everyone should be able to say, "I know it's real. I read it in the newspaper."

Real newspapers reporting real news have never been more important or more valuable to readers and communities.

This week, newspapers across the nation recognize National Newspaper Week and the theme — Real Newspapers...Real News — points to the importance of accurate reporting, watchdog journalism, strong editorials, comprehensive public notices and a free, open public forum that can be easily accessed by readers in more ways than ever before. In print, on digital sites, via laptop, desktop and mobile devices, through SMS or social media, newspapers across the nation continue to be the leading source of reliable information in all the communities they serve.

In a world of fake news spread on social media and attacks on the media from people in power, it is important for the public to know the difference between legitimate reporting by credible sources and all the noise posing as "the media."

Here are some of the reasons your local newspaper is the most trustworthy source for news and information:

— Newspaper newsrooms are staffed with real people — people you know — reporters, photographers, editors — gathering the news, conducting interviews, covering meetings, attending events, writing, editing, fact-checking and making sure every day you can trust what you read.

— Newspapers rely on recognizable sources. Quotes in the articles you read are attributed to real people and can be easily verified.

— Newspapers work hard to stay away from single source reporting, giving readers context and balance.

— Newspaper websites have legitimate URLs ending in .com or .org extensions, listing contact information, the names of staff members and the media organization's leadership team on the website.

— Newspapers correct mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes at times, but there is a big difference between an error and intentionally and knowingly publishing a false report because of some political or social agenda. Spurious websites, blogs and social media do not correct errors. They thrive on them.

In the United States newspapers have a long and important legacy of holding

the powerful accountable, defending the First Amendment and advocating for government transparency.

Democracy is protected when the newspaper provides checks and balances as the Fourth Estate of government from city hall to the courthouse to the statehouse to the White House.

Newspapers are committed to the neighborhoods, cities, counties, states and coverage areas they serve.

Straightforward news reporting and thought-provoking commentary give a voice to the voiceless and empower the powerless. Newspapers hold government accountable because at our very core we believe that government belongs to the governed and not to the governing.

Don't be embarrassed because you shared some sensational, agenda-driven report on social media only to find out it is totally fake. Get your news where real news has always been found: Your local newspaper, the real deal.

Jim Zachary, CNHI Regional Editor for Georgia and Florida newspapers, is the president and chairman of the Red & Black Publishing Co., serving the University of Georgia, director of the Transparency Project of Georgia, open government trainer and member of the board of directors of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation and a member of the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications Board of Trust.

The benefits of cooperation

If I were putting together a Sunday Drive Edition of a scavenger hunt, it would most certainly include the "CO-OP" emblem. You probably know what one I mean: an outline of a red circle and blue circle overlapping and the letters C-O-O-P stamped in the middle.

No matter where you go in the Midwest, you can likely spot this classic symbol. It's in obvious places like on the side of a grain elevator, gas tank or a business sign. And in more subtle places like old feed buckets, oil drums, clocks and utensils in a grandmother's kitchen, or on hats and jackets kept by old farmers.

The logo, which was almost universally

used by agricultural cooperatives in the 1980s and earlier, has slowly faded from use as modern cooperatives have opted to use their own brands to build recognition and loyalty, which is a smart move from a business perspective.

The nostalgic side of me is a little sad to see the once unified look of cooperatives drift into obsolescence. It makes me think about all the people who are rapidly moving further away from the complex story of how American agriculture came to grow of the safest, most abundant food supply in the world.

Cooperatives played a vital role in that story, and since October is National Coops month, I want to share briefly about how co-ops helped build American agriculture into what it is today and how they continue to keep our rural communities strong.

Cooperatives have their roots in agri-

culture. A group of farmers in England who were getting a raw deal from their suppliers formed the first cooperative several centuries ago. They were paying too much for a terrible product. Eventually the farmers got so frustrated that they decided they could do much better themselves. They pooled their resources to create a business but ended up creating a new framework and guiding principles for cooperatives, which are business collectively owned and operated by their members, who then share in the benefits and profits of the organization.

A century ago, that same model started to make a lot of sense in small remote communities across the Midwest. As farmers began to grow excess grain, they needed somewhere to take it. A group of neighbors could form a cooperative,

Pandemic effect

It always comes down to the lawyers, the insurance companies and the unexpected consequences, doesn't it?

At the Rail

After six days of hearings, the Legislature's Special Committee on the Kansas Emergency Management Act — which may recommend the 2021 session of the Legislature rewrite large sections of the act under which the governor has wide-ranging power to combat a pandemic such as the COVID-19 outbreak — it became clear that it's going to be the lawyers and the insurance companies that will be in the middle of the discussion.

Oh, sure, there's going to be talk about whether the governor can by Executive Order demand that Kansans wear masks when they are awake, or out in public, and whether she can in the future order businesses closed to avoid spread of disease. Lots of "do we really want the governor to be able to do that to our lives" stuff.

But besides the issue of public health and life and death of Kansans there's another issue brewing — legal liability for the spread of the pandemic. That's where the big trials, the big judgments and the big legal fees are going to mesmerize lawmakers.

If you are exposed to the pandemic in, say, the neighborhood paint store, come down with COVID-19, and are hospitalized or die, who is responsible? If the paint store has been determined to be an "essential" business, well, then it's up to the store to make sure that its customers and employees are safe, and don't expose you to the disease. If they aren't safe ... well ... then it's up to the lawyers to make the case that the business is liable for damages, if there are any, that can be traced believably to a jury that the paint store owner, or his/her insurer, can be liable for damages.

A key provision in the law passed this spring is that if the business was in substantial compliance with public health directives, there's no liability. They did what they were told with the presumption that they had made their businesses safe. But it will get more complicated when counties don't apply all the statewide directives — such as masks or crowding — that the governor's executive orders demand? Then is it state government or local government rules that determine whether the store has met public health requirements? Or, if the county has opted out of some state health requirements, and the store meets local requirements, is there a legal problem that can be prosecuted?

And look for businesses to have their own issues from the close-down order that has now been largely lifted but caused thousands of layoffs and firings when businesses were declared "non-essential" for months earlier this year and are having trouble getting re-opened. Is shutting down a business to deter spread of the pandemic essentially taking control of the business? Is that a "seizure" of the business? The taking of property? If government orders your business closed for a couple months, should you have to pay rent? Pay property taxes? If local rules let you have just half the customers at a club, and no sitting at the bar, has the state taken your property or made it useless? Can you make a claim on your business insurance for the damage to your wallet as you would if the restaurant caught fire?

These are the sorts of issues that lawmakers are going to deal with next session, inundated with testimony and information about the pandemic and the state's efforts to quell it in a tight-budget year.

The pandemic actually is a pandemic, having an effect on all Kansans, whether you are sick or not.

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