



Member 2020

## 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.

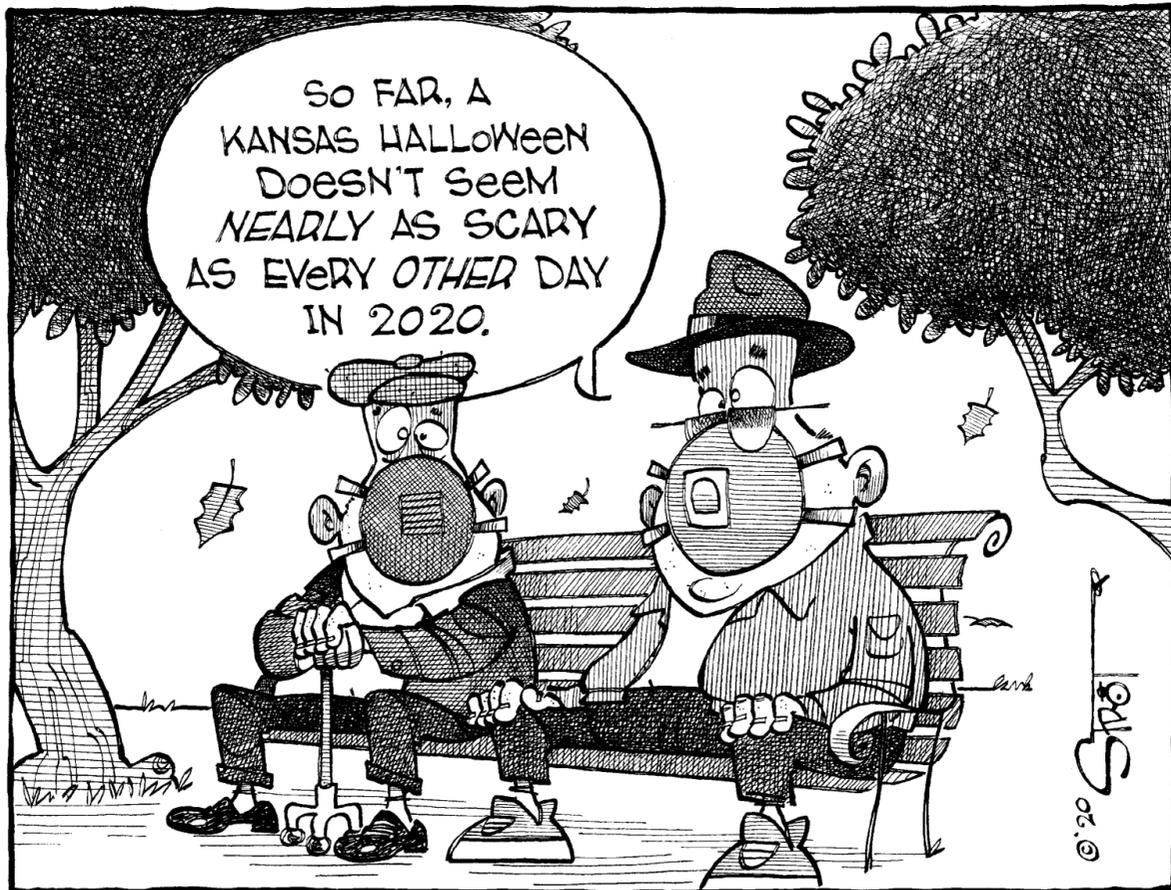
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## Letters to the Editor

### Make a difference in your community

Dear Editor:

My husband BJ and I are in full campaign swing! The 2020 United Way Campaign is so vital for this community, and we are so excited to be this year's co-chairs. We know that this designation comes with much responsibility.

For some people, their lives have returned to some sort of normalcy. But, for many people in the Flint Hills area, they are far from recovering from the impact of COVID. That is why success of the 2020 campaign is more important than ever.

Last year, the United Way served nearly 15,000 individuals. We work with 24 community partners to ensure that our com-

munity members are getting the services they need. The 2019 campaign raised nearly \$550,000. This money went back to our surrounding counties; Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, Lyon, Morris, Osage, Wabaunsee and Woodson. As you can see, our impact is far-reaching.

My favorite aspect of the United Way organization is the buy-in and support from all of you. As my husband and I are immersed in the campaign, we have been overwhelmed with the generosity of workplaces, businesses, and the individuals of the Flint Hills. Our people are eager to participate, however and how much they can. It is truly heartwarming.

I recently saw a quote on Facebook that struck a chord with me. "If everyone gave a little, those who need help, can have a lot." This is the true vision of a community campaign.

As we go through this campaign, I urge you to do what you can to get involved; start a workplace campaign, fill out a pledge sheet, create a fundraiser. Your help and generosity will make a difference in the lives of your community.

Thank you,  
**Kristy Bayer**  
2020 United Way of the Flint Hills  
Campaign Co-Chair

## Western press failure over Hong Kong

I looked down on "Boundary Street" from my apartment in the Hong Kong peninsula of Kowloon in 1975. As my young son watched the jetliners scream past our window to land at Kai Tak airport, I was looking down at a street that could one day separate Hong Kong from the China Mainland.

### Education Frontlines



**John Schrock**  
Educator

As a high school teacher at the international school, I knew the history of this last British colony. The 1800s were the British century; they "ruled the waves." Their navy won the "Opium War" and forced China to accept Western drug-running. Americans, including a family named Delano, participated in this drug trade as well. One part of the wartime settlement was that Hong Kong Island and a part of the Kowloon peninsula would belong to England in perpetuity. They soon realized they needed more farmland and leased the New Territories for 99 years. That lease would end in 1997. If Hong Kong was to remain a colony, they would have to build a Berlin-style wall down Boundary Street—not an option.

England appointed Chris Patton as Hong Kong's last British Governor. Hong Kong was a very limited "democracy." Their legal system sent court appeals to London. Patton and his Foreign Service wanted to negotiate a more democratic system before it was handed over at midnight on June 30, 1997. It was not an easy negotiation. Margaret Thatcher, the "Iron Lady," had just come off of waging war in the Falkland

Islands. On the China side was an equally dogmatic Chinese Foreign Service. The revolutionary leader Deng Xiaoping had brought economic communism to an end and opened up a market system.

He proposed a "One Country, Two Systems" and negotiated an arrangement where China would provide national protection. Hong Kong would run its own internal affairs on its own "Basic Law."

That Basic Law is based on the Sino-British Joint Declaration signed between China and the British government on December 19, 1984. It is easily accessed online. The limited socialism practiced in the rest of China does not extend to Hong Kong. Hong Kong will continue its capitalist system for 50 years after 1997. That has not changed. Nor have the fundamental rights of Hong Kong residents, the function of the branches of local government, or their ability to amend or interpret the Basic Law. The courts of Hong Kong were now the final arbiter. Appeals no longer went to London. But the governor of Hong Kong is vetted by Beijing, to ensure that no attempt is made to secede.

So what changed in Hong Kong? The case of a Taiwan husband who murdered his wife and fled to Hong Kong revealed a gap in extradition laws in the Basic Law. The extradition loophole would make it possible for Hong Kong to become a haven for criminals fleeing from certain regions. But a proposed extradition law also made it possible for mainland China to request extradition of persons for political crimes. Protests erupted. The extradition bill was withdrawn. But the protests continued, because they were really about promoting secession. The protests did not remain

peaceful. Windows were shattered. Fire bombs were thrown. Hong Kong's well-trained police were assaulted as they attempted to curtail the violence. On July 1 of 2019, protesters broke into and occupied the Legislative Council Complex, ransacking and vandalizing the facility.

Then in late November of 2019, the protests came to a halt as Hong Kong citizens went to the polls. While many pro-Beijing candidates lost, the Legislative Council still remained with its general duties to legislate and manage for Hong Kong.

Beijing passed the Hong Kong national security law on June 30, 2020. Inciting for secession became a crime, just as it is in the United States. Along with coercion with foreign governments, these crimes can now result in extradition to the mainland. Otherwise, Hong Kong continues to manage its own affairs with considerably more independence than U.S. states have from our federal government. By 2047, both Hong Kong and the Beijing governments and economies will have continued to evolve.

Nevertheless, the Western press continually referred to the demonstrators as "democracy demonstrators." And the Western public swallowed this label even while the demonstrators stopped to go to the polls for elections! This propaganda labeling occurred without Western government directive. It demonstrates how easy it is for a press to follow political stereotypes and begin a drumbeat to war.

I listened closely to reporters for any evidence that any had read Hong Kong's "Basic Law" or Deng Xiaoping's rationale "On the Question of Hong Kong." None had done their homework.

## Shots

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Coffey County Health Department is offering the following flu shots:

- ▶ Flu-Zone for 6 months and older, \$30.
- ▶ Flu-Blok for 18 years and older, \$60.
- ▶ High Dose for 65 years and older, \$60.

Vaccination should optimally occur before the onset of flu activity in the community. CDC recommends that vaccination be offered by the end of October.

Why do those 65 years and older need the high dose flu shot? Older adults produce 50 to 75 percent fewer antibodies than younger adults. The high dose flu shot contains four times as much flu virus antigen as the regular flu shot for added protection against the flu.

Children 6 months through 8 years of age who have no record of flu immunization

need two doses of flu vaccine. The first dose should be received as soon as possible and the second dose administered at least four weeks later.

Children 6 months through 8 years of age who have received one dose of flu vaccine anytime will only need one dose.

Following is a list of all the health factors that are known to increase a person's risk of getting serious getting the flu: asthma; blood disorders; chronic lung disease - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPHD) and Cystic Fibrosis; diabetes; heart disease; kidney disorders; liver disorders; people with a weakened immune system; people who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to provide protection against influenza virus infection.

Flu vaccine appointments continue to be available at the Coffey County Health Department. Call the office between 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Pigskin

Continued from Page 1

were missed more than twice, SMU vs. Cincinnati and Oklahoma State vs. Iowa State. Cincinnati defeated SMU, 42-13, and Oklahoma State defeated Iowa State, 24-21. However, the trickiest and most commonly missed games were in the National Football League. The Titans vs. Steelers game, won 27-24 by the Steelers, was missed the most often, but the Patriots vs. 49ers game, won 33-6 by the 49ers, was also missed by a majority of contestants.

This week's Pigskin Picks, for which contest games are printed on page 12 of today's newspaper, will conclude the 2020 contest. Winners will be announced in next week's edition of The Republican, with first place again winning \$20. It's easy to play and it's free, so find your pencil and join the fun for one last week! Good luck!

## Pondering endings

Fall is winding down on our farm. Brown grass is hidden beneath piles of colorful leaves that have fallen.

### Insight



**Jackie Mundt**  
Kansas Farm Bureau

Wheat drilled last month has popped up providing a spiky looking cover to fields for the winter. Corn and soybeans have been harvested and shipped off

to the elevator. By the time you read this, we may even have had a dusting of snow.

But — a single field of double-crop milo remains uncut. It could take weeks before it is dry enough to harvest. This one field has caused a disproportionate amount of anxiety. Even though all the other work is done, harvest season cannot be complete without it. Equipment can't be winterized, paperwork can't be finalized, and the weight of unfinished work sits heavy in our house.

It seems like so much of this year has been spent in a similar state. Waiting anxiously to see what will happen with COVID-19 when we just want to get back to "normal" life.

Counting down the days until the election and the merciful end of campaign ads. Watching our fellow humans so frustrated by inequality that violence erupts in the streets and wondering helplessly how to make it stop.

All this seems to have led to many of us feeling "over it", where anxiety and frustration create a mental fatigue and you just don't care anymore how it turns out as long as it is over.

The problem with this apathy is that it can cause you to forget to stop and appreciate the value of an ending.

Endings can be satisfying. Like the feeling that comes from indulging in large gulps for air after you sprinted across the finish line, the satisfying swish and thud of the hard cover closing when you have finished a good book, or making a joyful "Victory March" across the stage to receive your diploma.

Endings can also be disappointing. The feeling of defeat that comes from losing a playoff game to end your high school athletic career. The regret of a missed opportunity. Getting the devastating news of a friend or loved one's life being unexpectedly cut short.

To truly value endings, you must recognize that our final ending is that of life. All the other endings are leading to that one and it will probably come sooner than most of us would like.

So, when I find myself feeling apathetic or anxiously waiting for an ending, I try to stop and appreciate the moment: imagining an end and pondering how it can bring me joy or teach me an important lesson. I reflect on how past satisfactions or disappointments made me who I am and motivate me through the promise or threat of how things will end.

Each ending fills our life with experience and opens a space for another beginning.

Next week the 2020 campaign season will come to an end. There will be winners and losers. In the future, COVID outbreaks will be controlled and the world should go back to some kind of normal. Racial inequalities can even be overcome. And harvest on our farm will eventually be finished.

For now, I am going to appreciate the lessons of this crazy year and dream of all the wonderful endings in my future.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.