

FORUM

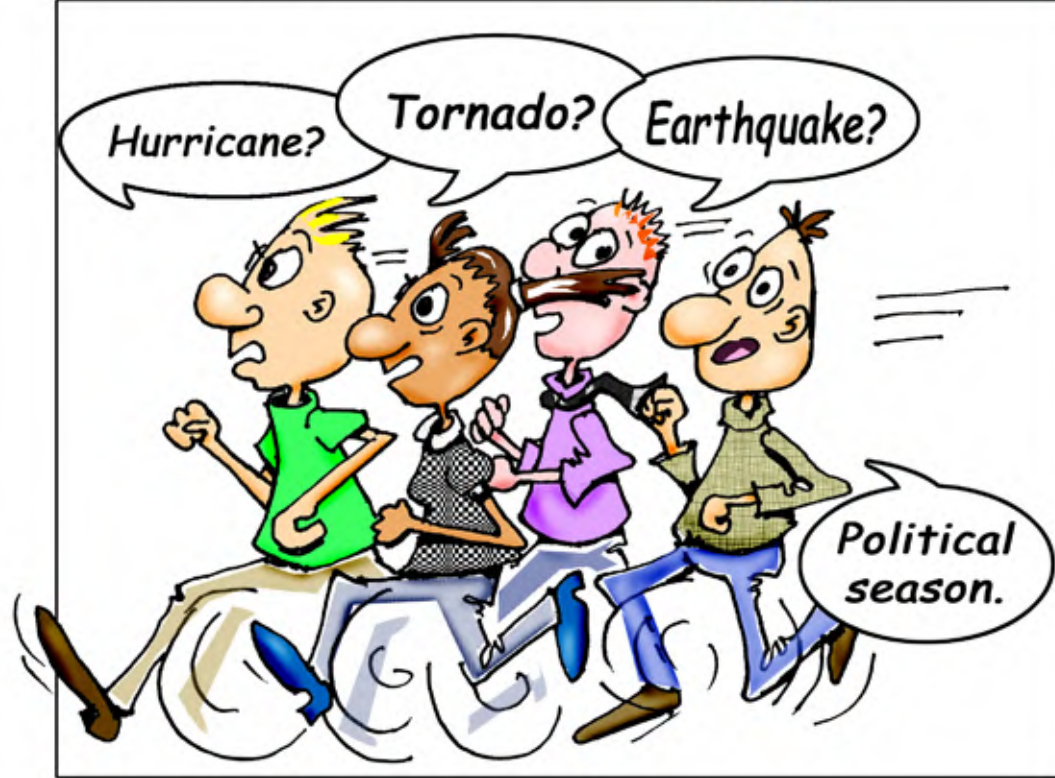
OPINION

Farm Bureau's efforts wrong on ballot issue

To the editor:
This is in response to the Farm Bureau Blake Hurst's letter of Aug. 25. Is it just me or are there others that sense Mr. Hurst is having difficulty with the fact Missouri voters have spoken? We voted "Yes" to Proposition B: Yes, please feed those dogs; Yes, please water those dogs; Yes, please give them exercise, etc. Mr. Hurst mentioned the state legislature amending the U.S. Constitution; thankfully, that has not happened as it still reads: "Of the people, by the people and for the people." I respectfully submit Mr. Hurst the Missouri voters will not allow, as you put it, a handful of elected officials, to undo our vote; yes our votes count. Hopefully, someday soon Missouri will not be known as the "puppy mills" state.

"humane" and "ethical treatment" of their dogs. Dare I suggest Mr. Hurst look up the meaning of "humane" and ethical" before he decides to call these organizations radicals. I would consider radicals those breeders with eyes only on the greenback dollar bill; who keeps their females in cages stacked on high. Of course if the female's muscles have atrophied and she cannot give birth, they simply cut the pups out and place them with a female who has to continually nurse with tits that are already bloodied and raw. Due to the continually howling and crying many have their voice box removed. I learned about a patron of a pet store upon arriving home with his new pet discovered it could not eat properly. The vet discovered the dog's voice box had been crushed with a tiny pipe forced

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m.o.k.k.houstonherald.com 2011

COLUMN 6

Texas County residents were among those winning in Missouri Lottery games in August.

The list includes: Bobby Bell, Houston, \$1,000; Michael Sherman, Houston, \$1,000; Piper Ficken, Cabool, \$3,000; Paula Hurst, Success, \$1,000; and Douglas Christlieb Sr., Plato, \$1,000.

Texas County Farm Bureau is asking its membership to complete its annual survey. It can be dropped off at its annual dinner Tuesday, Sept. 13, at the Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Fairgrounds on North U.S. 63. Members are asked to bring their table service, along with a vegetable dish or dessert. Steaks, breads and beverages will be provided.

An auction will benefit a scholarship fund. Items are appreciated.

A reminder: Missouri Community Betterment judges will travel Monday to Houston to review the town's progress in the last year.

Houston earlier submitted a scrapbook of accomplishments, and judges will hear more at 9:45 a.m. at the Houston Storm Shelter at First and Pine streets in Houston. Winners will be announced Oct. 16-17 at a statewide conference in Jefferson City.

Drew Bennett, Missouri State University-West Plains president, says he plans to stay at the Howell County institution. For the second time since May, Bennett was under consideration for a president's post. The latest was at St. Charles Community College, which named its leader last week.

The Missouri Ethics Commission is investigating an anonymous mailing that arrived days before an August ballot issue in the Houston School District.

The commission's inquiry was sparked by a yellow card distributed through the mail that opposed an issue to join the Ozarks Technical Community College. The matter was defeated by 46 votes.

Supporters of the measure said at the time that the mailing contained inaccurate information and failed to follow state statute related to origination. It didn't include who paid for the mailing.

You'd had to witness it to believe how two U.S. Postal Service officials (not from this area) conducted a hearing last week at Success. At the start of the public meeting at the local school house, an official told those attending they could not record audio, video or take pictures or they would call the meeting to an end. Needless to say, it wasn't exactly a friendly way to greet patrons concerned about losing the community's identity with the closing of their post office.

Texas County residents can be proud of Rep. Don Wells, R-Cabool, who spoke up and protested the request. One of the postal officials conducting the meeting ordered Wells to turn off his recording that was requested by the staff of U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt and to erase what had been taped. Wells protested and wanted to know why a public record of the meeting couldn't be taken. He hadn't seen such a thing, and neither had we.

When the debate was over, Wells did stop the recording but didn't erase the file.

As the meeting closed, our Herald representative snapped a crowd shot and was later greeted by a plainclothes U.S. postal inspector who flashed his badge and asked for a meeting in a hallway.

We looked through our stack of papers for the region and found other pictures appearing in regional papers that were taken at other hearings. Hopefully, it was just an isolated incident.

LETTERS

Walk will benefit hungry in Texas County

To the editor:
Once again Texas County must pull together. For several years now the churches of Texas County joined together on the last Sunday in September to walk and raise money for the food pantry located in Houston and Licking.

The food pantry has been there when folks are experiencing tough times. It's not just food that the pantry helps out with. There's also clothing, household items, money for gas to get to your destination or even lodging for the night when people just can't go any farther.

With all the devastation we've seen on TV lately, and most of our churches have found an extra dollar in our pocket to lend a helping hand. Now is the time for Texas County to help Texas County. All the money that is raised, stays right here in Texas County. There are no administrative fees.

This year, we would like to get as many churches involved as possible. Our new goal is to get the teenagers involved. The need for community involvement on their college resume is important. Walking in the "Walk For Hunger" and getting your

church folks or neighbors or family will be a two-fold reward.

The walk will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 25. Registration will start at 1:30 p.m. at the Houston Senior Center on Grand Avenue in downtown Houston. There are one-, two- and three-mile courses. Most walkers ask for a dollar per mile. That is not a lot of money per person, however, if each walker gets several sponsors, the total gift will be a lot. Have a talk with your church family and see how much fun this could be.

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Animal issues part of a complicated problem

Last week, I heard from one source in law enforcement in the community and another in animal care that the number of "animal hoarding" cases that have taken place this year in Texas County was up to four.

I guess I had lost track, but when I heard that I was kind of taken back. That's a pretty big number, even considering the size of the piece of real estate involved.

So what the heck is up with that? Why do sheriff's department officers spend so much time dealing with situations involving neglected or abused dogs and cats, and why does the local animal shelter have to

so often be over-capacity because of those situations?

Well, that's easy - there are just a whole lot of ignorant and apathetic folks in these parts, right?

Not so fast. The issue is much more complicated than that and has many overlapping layers and levels, all of which affect the end result.

But I tend to agree with the animal care representative who said, "it all comes down to spaying and neutering."

Now, I'm not about to begin a debate about the big picture of how spay and neuter should be handled in society, especially from a government standpoint. And I'm not going

to pretend I have all the answers to what really are some extremely difficult questions.

I just want to give my two cents (which could arguably be worth less than that) on how the lack of spaying and neutering can and does lead to problems.

After a KSPR 33 TV news crew came to The Animal Shelter of Texas County near Houston last week to do a piece on the county's latest animal abuse case, both the law enforcement officer and the shelter rep made similar comments. They each said they basically believe that people sometimes start out with good intentions, but end up buried by an animal landslide.

How?
Let's say a person lives in a re-
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1. Death notice: Sandra Chapman.
2. Authorities: Chapman last known to be in Kansas.
3. Chapman arrested in Colorado.
4. Authorities still searching for Cabool murder suspect.
5. Two serious after ATV accident Sunday.
6. Chapman unseen since murder.
7. Chapman appears in court.
8. Logging accident kills Salem man.
9. Murder reported at Cabool.
10. Mountain lion photographed in Shannon County.

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