

# OPINION

## EDITORIAL

### NSCC move into downtown Lynn big plus for businesses

#### Culinary, cosmetology programs coming to Union Street

The expansion of North Shore Community College into Lynn's downtown — the college is moving its culinary and cosmetology programs from Danvers to 270 Union St. — is another big step to help spur redevelopment.

Having students in downtown proper will be a plus for area shops and restaurants, as was the expansion of the Lynn Community Health Center on Union, which brought hundreds more to the vicinity.

"EDIC and the City of Lynn are excited to bring staff and students into the central business district," EDIC Executive Director James Cowdell told The Item last week. "This is a solid commitment to expand NSCC in Lynn and we look forward to continuing our partnership."

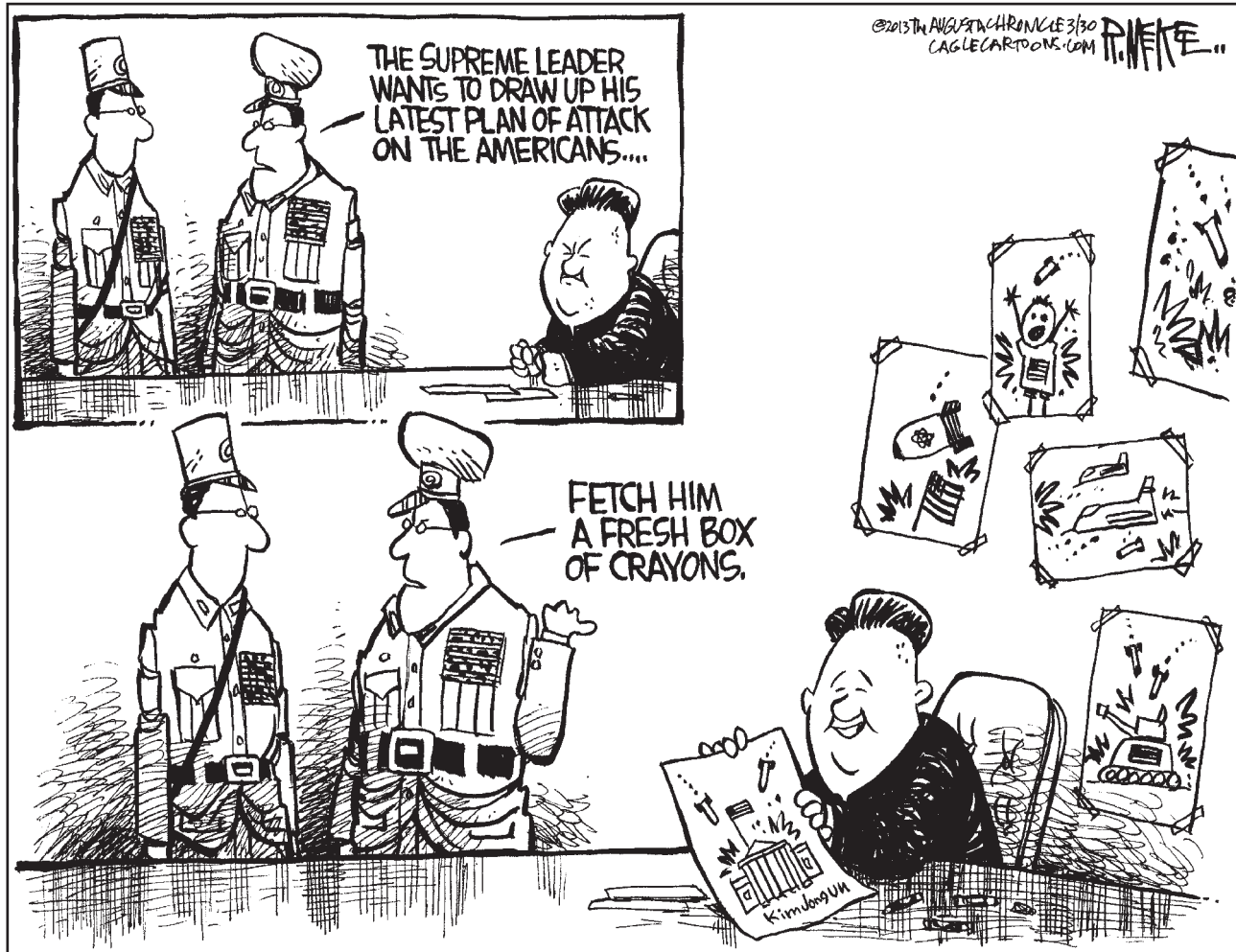
The college expects 270 Union St. will allow both trade programs, which draw many students from Lynn high schools, to grow significantly. Parking could be a challenge in the area, but increasing foot traffic downtown only makes vacant commercial properties — even the old Anthony's Hawthorne restaurant — ripe for new life.

Earlier this year Salem State University President Patricia Maguire Meservey said SSU is also exploring the possibility of expanding one or two of its programs to Lynn, noting however that it would be several years of research and planning if that were to happen. The city and EDIC might suggest SSU make a similar move to the downtown.

The bigger the influx of college students to the area the better, giving young people the chance to discover Lynn's surging arts and cultural district and possibly even change negative perceptions of the city some may have.



'EDIC and the City of Lynn are excited to bring staff and students into the central business district.'



## N. Korea rattles guns of war

Iraq, the great chimera of the Bush administration, had no weapons of mass destruction, posed no threat to the United States or its interests, posed no threat to its neighbors, and, after the defeat in Kuwait and years of sanctions, its army was in no shape to fight.

North Korea is different. Under its untested new leader, Kim Jong-un, believed to be 29 or 30, the always-belligerent pariah state has raised its level of threats in vehemence, frequency and, most alarmingly, specificity.

Meeting with his military leaders Friday, Kim, according to the state-run news agency, said "the time has come to settle accounts with the U.S. imperialists in view of the prevailing situation."

North Korean spokesmen have threatened pre-emptive strikes against the United States, for the first time specifically mentioning Washington, and South Korea to "break the waists of the crazy enemies, totally cut their windpipes and thus clearly show them what real war is like."

The Korean peninsula has had an uneasy peace for nearly 60 years, so perhaps Pyongyang has forgotten what "real war" is like. Alarmingly, Kim recently renounced the 1953 armistice that halted the Korean War and cut off all military communication with South Korea.



### DALE McFEATTERS

*Military analysts say that Kim's missiles pose no threat to the U.S. mainland or even Hawaii or Guam.*

There is a strong possibility that these bloodcurdling threats are meant mainly for internal consumption — that Kim wants to distract his people from the reality that their miserable lives have gotten no better under his rule; that Kim, who has no military experience, is desperate to

establish the image of a strong, decisive leader; or that perhaps his grip on power isn't as tight as the world thinks and this warmongering talk is a way of warding off a potential internal challenge.

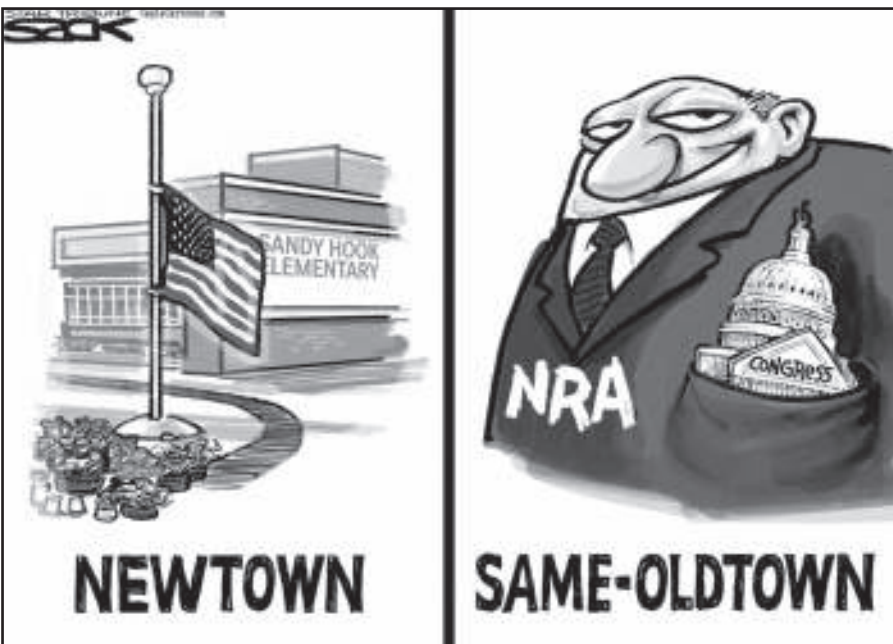
If so, a coup by senior North Korean military leaders, who have at least some sense of war, might not be all bad. It's hard to imagine a new government being any worse.

The United States has no choice but to take the threats semi-seriously. Military analysts say that Kim's missiles pose no threat to the U.S. mainland or even Hawaii or Guam. Nonetheless, this is reason to strengthen missile defenses in South Korea, Japan and the Pacific.

China is the indispensable nation when it comes to influencing North Korea, and Beijing must come to realize that a conflagration on the Korean peninsula with its accompanying uncertainty could bring an abrupt end to its robust economic growth.

The danger is that Kim's threats may reach the point of diminishing returns and the callow, inexperienced North Korean may feel compelled to act — simply to prove that these are not empty threats.

Dale McFeatters is an editorial writer and columnist with Scripps Howard News Service.



## YOUR LETTERS WELCOME

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## Where have all the promises gone on Obamacare?

### COMMENTARY TWILA BRASE

live in states that do not expand Medicaid. Therefore, entire classes of lower-income individuals will likely be left uninsured. Once again, the Obama administration's promise of affordable coverage is broken.

The proposed regulations recognize the fact that Obamacare is about to make health insurance very expensive and unaffordable for many Americans. These exemptions to the mandate, while welcome to those threatened with an IRS penalty, put the penalties in full view but completely negate the promise of coverage. HHS wants your comments on the proposed rule. Comment by March 18.

Contrary to its name, the Patient

The President made many promises before the federal health reform bill became law. He said "if you like your plan you can keep it." He said the cost of a family insurance policy would drop by \$2,500 in his first term. He said everyone would be covered. In short, he said, "Fear not."

But reality has arrived. Family premiums have increased by \$3,065 over the past four years. Experts say more "sticker shock" is coming this summer when insurers release their Obamacare-priced premiums. This could be as early as July. By 2014, many American families will know the president's promises were nothing political hot air.

A proposed federal rule brings broken promises to a new and disturbing level. As U.S. Senator Wyden (D-Oregon) says, millions of spouses and children will be stuck in a "no man's land" of uninsurance.

In the proposed "Eligibility for Exemptions" rule released February 1, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) defines "affordability" of employer-sponsored coverage as affordable if the cost of coverage for the individual worker is affordable. This is "self-only" coverage. If it does not exceed 9.5% of the employee's income, it's considered affordable. The employee must buy it or pay a penalty to the IRS. If, on the other hand, the company's family coverage exceeds 9.5% of the employee's income and is unaffordable, HHS proposes that the spouse and children be given a hardship exemption to the IRS insurance mandate. This frees the family from being penalized with taxes, but may leave all but the worker uninsured.

Similarly, certain individuals eligible for Medicaid have been deemed exempt from the IRS penalty. HHS proposes that individuals eligible for enrollment in Obamacare's expanded Medicaid program are exempt if they

Protection and Affordable Care Act does nothing to protect patients from the unaffordable coverage it creates. The law even prohibits the most affordable coverage. Catastrophic insurance — policies that cover the rare car accidents, comas, cancer and serious conditions that threaten families financially — are now illegal for anyone 30 years or older.

Despite its promises, Obamacare doesn't protect patients, isn't affordable, and will hurt American families. Real protection requires a repeal of Obamacare and its price hikes. Until then, states must resist implementation of the law. They must not create the Obamacare Exchange or expand Medicaid. Half of the states have taken the lead. The rest should follow.

Twila Brase is president of the Citizens' Council for Health Freedom.



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