

## Governor makes the right decision

It was an unusual move. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius refused to sign appointment papers for a former Smith County sheriff, naming him to a job he had to leave more than a decade ago because he had broken the law. Good for the governor. By now, Ellsworth Murphy probably is back in the saddle as Smith County sheriff. It shouldn't be, but the governor has no real authority to block an appointment by a county party committee to fill a vacancy in local office. The law says either she signs the documents, or the appointment goes into effect without her signature. It sort of makes you wonder why the governor is involved at all, but that's not the point. The point is, the governor was right. There's no way Murphy should be a sheriff again. He was removed from office for violating state law by putting an illegal bug in the police chief's house. Witnesses said at the time he claimed he was investigating her involvement in a supposed drug ring. That never panned out, but even if it had been true, it's wrong for a law enforcement officer to break the law. Bugging a person's home without a warrant is a violation of their constitutional rights, and a serious offense in this country. It's never justified to break the law to catch bad guys, assuming they are bad guys, especially for an officer sworn to uphold the law. But the offense was just a misdemeanor, so technically, Murphy was not barred from reappointment. All he'll say is that it's in the past. The county Republican committee showed poor judgment and poor taste in making the selection. There had to be someone more qualified for the top law enforcement job in the county, where the elected sheriff quit and left town. To further establish his credentials as an all-around good guy, Mr. Murphy filed a lawsuit against one Smith County resident, charging slander because the man referred to him as a "convicted felon" after the party meeting. He claimed he was suffering "extreme emotional distress." Kansans may have something close to that, getting a guy like this as a county sheriff. The only hope is that the state Law Enforcement Training Commission will deny him a certificate, which would bar him from staying in office. Whatever, we applaud the governor's good sense in refusing to sign the appointment. It was the right thing to do.

— Steve Haynes

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Shopping locally is the best for all

To the Editor:  
I agree with the editorial in Friday's (Aug. 5) paper about buying locally. I have always been an advocate of buying from the local merchants wherever I lived. I want the community in which I live to stay strong and keep going, so I can continue to live there. There have been a number of times that a merchant here in Norton didn't have what I wanted, but he could order it for me. The ordered items usually arrive within a week or less, which I find to be of very little inconvenience. One of the many advantages to working with local merchants in a community like ours is that they know you and you know them. That makes for a comfortable, honest, business relationship. You have little, if any, problem of getting what

you want and the local merchant will do everything they can to make sure you are happy with your purchase. Also, if a merchant doesn't have the item you want and if he knows of another merchant in the community who may have it, he will refer you to that other merchant. So, even if he doesn't make the sale, the money still stays in the community to keep it strong. Besides, at these gas prices, who wants to make an expensive trip to Hays or Kearney? A bloated, national entity like Wal-Mart may have attractive prices, but their dealings with suppliers and others to get those prices are questionable. I would much prefer to do business with the local merchants. Thank you.

June Prout  
Norton

## THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
Publishers, 1970-2002  
Incorporating the Norton County Champion  
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## A baking fiasco turned out well

So much for basking in the warm afterglow of my vacation. I walked into my office last Wednesday and it was, "Good morning. Did you get that story done on (whatever)? Have you seen (whoever) about their ad? Grab the phone, can 'ya?"

The push to get everything done before you leave and the stack of work awaiting you on your return makes you wonder if it was worth leaving in the first place.

Then I remember the cool mountain air, the lazy mornings, and the afternoon naps. Yeah, it was worth it. Oh, boy, was it worth it.

—ob—

I'm not a fan of Bill Maher, the former host of "Politically Incorrect," but he just wrote a book about his impressions on life and is hawking it on the morning news shows.

I thought this was funny. He said, "It's time to stop kidding yourselves about those baby-changing tables they have in men's restrooms now. They are never going to be used, and should be removed. Otherwise, you're just tempting a short, homeless man to use it as a Murphy bed."

—ob—

When women friends get together, silly

### Out Back Carolyn Plotts



things happen.

I volunteered to help a friend bake the rolls for her daughter's wedding in September. She liked the crescent rolls I've baked for church dinners and I assured her they are very easy to make.

We set the date for this project and then she called to ask if it would be OK for a few others to join us. They wanted to learn how to make my rolls, too. And her sister-in-law from Topeka wanted to come. Ohmigosh. People were going to drive several hundred miles for these rolls. The pressure. But I said, "Sure. The more, the merrier."

I think we ended up with a "class" of seven. How can I best describe the varying levels of competency? At one end of the spectrum, we had an aspiring gourmet cook, so she was "all over" this. At the other end, we had a baker "wannabe" who

didn't want to break a nail. The others fell somewhere in between.

I knew we were in trouble when one baker couldn't get the bowl off of the food processor base. She ended up lifting the entire unit to dump the contents into the mixing bowl.

All bread bakers know you need a nice, warm place to let the dough raise. But, in the air conditioned building where we were working, there was no such place.

Yankee ingenuity kicked in and someone came up with the idea of using the back seat of a car. Temperatures there easily reach 120 degrees, perfect for raising bread. Luckily, one of the bakers had an SUV with a large, flat back end. Just enough space for the six bowls of dough we had ready to "set."

Ninety minutes later, we had beautiful "poofy" dough, ready to be punched down, rolled out and shaped.

With flour flying everywhere, my team of novices rolled, cut, shaped and formed 24 dozen crescent rolls. These are safely in the deep freeze waiting for the morning of the wedding, when I will bake them.

We did a quality-control test on a dozen and judged them to be "superb."

But, of course, that's just our opinion.

## Decisions need to be made while alive

### Hospice Services, Inc.

dividuals to make decisions in advance.

"LIVE" stands for:

- Learn about options for end-of-life services and care;
- Implement plans to ensure your wishes are honored;
- Voice your decisions with family, friends, and health and spiritual care providers; and
- Engage in personal or community efforts to improve end-of-life care.

The national "LIVE" campaign is sponsored by the Caring Connections program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Hospice is a key end-of-life service that surveys continue to show people know little about, even though last year hospice helped over 1 million Americans live their last months and weeks with dignity, com-

fort, and compassion.

Hospice teams of health care professionals and trained volunteers provide pain management, symptom control, emotional and social support and spiritual care for patients — and their families.

But most Americans do not know, for instance, that hospice costs are paid by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurance plans and HMOs.

Hospice Services and Caring Connections are committed to improve end-of-life decision-making and access to quality care.

Information and resources are available from local Hospice Services or nationally at [www.caringinfo.org](http://www.caringinfo.org) or by calling the Caring Connections HelpLine at (800) 658-8898.

Death will stop for you whether you are prepared or not. We encourage you to "LIVE" — Learn, Implement, Voice and Engage. Make decisions for your end-of-life wishes today and share those decision.

Be prepared — for yourself, and for the sake of those you love.

## WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous should be submitted to

the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.