

## Every voter should have say on Sunday Sales issue

The Norton City Council changed its mind about Sunday liquor sales, and that's just fine — up to a point.

The council decided to allow Sunday sales of packaged beer and alcohol in the city during its Aug. 17 meeting.

Last week, it backed off and rescinded the resolution. Why?

Because opponents wanted a vote, and it would have cost the city \$3,000 for an election.

On July 20, the council learned that some business people would like to be able to sell packaged liquor on Sunday.

It is legal to sell beer and alcohol by the drink in the city on a Sunday, but not to sell bottles of liquor or wine or beer.

The council felt it would be good for business to allow the change.

At the second reading of the ordinance two weeks later, though, several people appeared to protest the change. Again at the third reading on Aug. 17, a couple more protests were made.

However, the council decided to go ahead and allow the change with the thought that if enough people were against the idea, they could pass a petition to have an election.

And that's just what happened.

A petition was put together and collected 226 signatures. The county clerk checked those against the list of registered voters and found that 202 were valid.

Since a petition only required 5 percent of the registered voters from the last November election, or 130 in the city of Norton, the county would hold a special election within 45 days unless the city changed its mind.

The council decided that it didn't want to spend \$3,000 for a special election and backed down.

All that is well and good. We can understand why the city doesn't want to "waste" \$3,000.

But we think that the issue should be put on the next general ballot because, while 202 voters signed against the issue, that is still less than 10 percent of those registered to vote.

We don't want to see 5 to 10 percent of our population hold the other 90 to 95 percent hostage on any issue because the city, county or state is unwilling to spend the money to hold an election.

When the time comes to put this issue on the ballot, someone will note that it will cost money to do so.

So be it.

When we stop having elections because of the cost, we are in serious trouble.

For less than earth-shaking issues, like the Sunday sales, we see no reason that the vote can't be put off for a while. But, if this issue was important enough for the council to pass a resolution, it is important enough for us to pay a little for it to go to all the voters.

— Cynthia Haynes

## 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.

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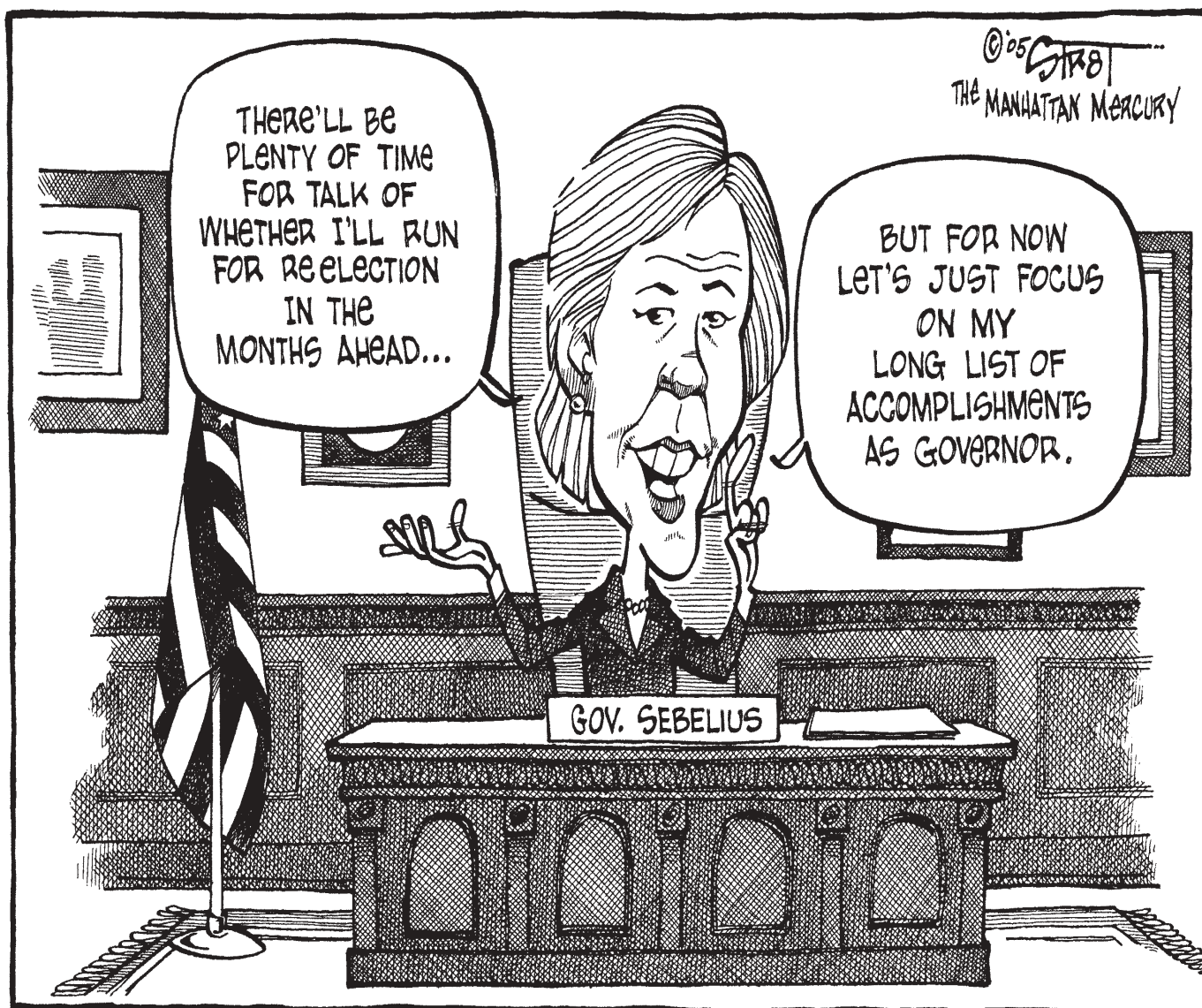
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## Nor'West Newspapers

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## Photographer digs digital camera

Since I bought my digital camera a year ago, I've become a hazard at home and on the highway.

My eyes are always scanning for a "photo opportunity." You never know when I might spot something I think is worthy of being captured in time.

A few weeks ago, that was me parked on the shoulder of the highway. I was standing on the trunk of my car trying to get a picture of water standing in terraces.

Birds are great subjects, but I'm probably not patient enough. I always want to be closer, but as soon as you move, they're gone. Thank goodness for zoom lenses.

People are still my favorite subjects. Little kids are the best. They are so uninhibited. If I can capture them unaware, it's perfect.

It helps that I have a press pass. People forgive you when you say, "I need up front. I'm with the newspaper." And, I'm pushy enough to worm my way into the

## Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



best spot for a shot.

Digital cameras are the cheapskate's answer to photo processing. This morning, I took a dozen pictures of a beautiful rosebud Jim brought in to me. It is, literally, the last rose of summer.

If I had to pay for film processing, I might have snapped one, two at the most.

With my digital camera, I "posed" the "posy" in front of different backgrounds. I used the flash in some, without in others. I tried to blur the background while focusing on the flower. I laid it down, I

kept it in the vase. The variations were endless.

And now with on-line photo processing, it's a simple matter of e-mailing your photo files. In a day or two, your prints are sent back to you, and you only buy the ones you want.

The technological age is wonderful.

Two weeks ago, I bought a cell phone with a camera. My argument to get it was it would help me in my work. I could take a picture at a remote location, e-mail it to the office and it would be there before press time.

You know all the earthquakes, natural disasters and terrorist activities we have going on out here. Wouldn't want to miss a thing.

It worked. I have my new camera phone and Jim has a new power tool. Fair trade.

—ob—  
Here's a point to ponder: Can an atheist get insurance against "acts of God?"

## Who's to say who's right or wrong?

As the church was rising on the plains east of Denver, we started referring to it as "Our Lady of the Barren Plain."

Obviously Catholic, it was nothing like the frou-frou modern architecture of suburban churches. Hard aside I-70 at Watkins, it had no neighborhoods around it to feed a parish.

It has the form of a classic Roman church from a century ago, and it turns out, that's pretty much what it is.

St. Isadore the Farmer is the home church now in Denver of the St. Pius X Society, that group of Catholics formed after the Vatican II conference of the 1960s to fight change and preserve the old ways.

It's not fair to say the group split from the church; they would tell you the church split from them. But the names of the pope and the archbishop of Denver are chiseled indelibly into the cornerstone — in Latin.

We had been curious about the service at St. Isadore, but leaving Denver on a Sunday, we're often not dressed the way this parish lives: Coat, tie, dress shoes for men; dresses and head covering for women. We had the clothes last week, though, even if Cynthia did have to borrow a lace mantilla to cover her head.

It's hasn't been that long since these things were part of Catholic worship around the world, and not just in the Roman church. When I joined the Episcopal

## On the Prairie Dog

Steve Haynes



church in the 1960s, you wore a tie and ladies were expected to cover the heads. It didn't last long.

The reforms of that era swept traditions away from all the mainstream churches, but none changed more dramatically than the Catholics.

A lot of people didn't like it.

Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre of France led the Pius X movement, citing theological grounds to cling to the old ways, especially the "tridentine" Latin Mass. The protest not just about form, but substance.

So St. Isadore is a church frozen in time. The Mass book comes from the 1962 missal, the last one issued in Latin. It includes a good English translation for those who can't follow the Latin, and these days, who can?

There is a school now, struggling, but teaching the old ways to new students. Bingo is the big fund-raiser, and please, Father says, the parish really needs the money from extra sessions to make budget. For the 10 a.m. service, though, the

pews are only half full. There are fewer old traditionalists than you might expect, but lots of young, conservative ex urban families.

There's a scattering of Hispanics, many of them older couples. And a few you wouldn't expect — a biker in leathers, wearing a scarf for a tie; a guy in a mullet and leisure shirt, straight from the '70s.

Except for a more modern Colorado-style roof, the church is finished not in the style of the last century, but the one before.

The kneelers are wood, the altar rail mounted on cold marble. Did you ever consider how much harder marble is than wood? Me neither, until then.

The ushers knelt flat on the marble floor for five minutes before communion. It's a place, and a service, more about penance than celebration.

In his sermon, the priest talked about why it's a sin to eat meat on Friday, even if you like fish better, and, I swear, pushed indulgences.

It's impossible to know who's right and who's wrong in these arguments. I'm comfortable seeing those who cling to tradition have their time and place.

St. Paul said we won't know these things until it's time, and then we'll understand. Meantime, the harm done is mostly in the animosity that develops when one group tries to force its ways on any other, in any church, in any time.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

### Tootsie Rolls to help those with developmental disabilities

To the Editor:

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas would like to wish all of the area Knights of Columbus organizations in northwest Kansas the best of luck as they conduct their annual Tootsie Roll Drive.

For many years, people with developmental disabilities have benefited from the generosity and hard work of the Knights. We truly appreciate their kind-

ness and support.

The Consumer Medical Fund of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas was established due to the contributions made through the Tootsie Roll Drive. This fund helps people with disabilities with the cost of medical items and care that are not covered by Medicaid, such as dental expenses and adaptive equipment. We hope that everyone will take the time to

donate through this great effort by your local Knights.

Once again, good luck and thank you for making the medical needs of people with developmental disabilities one of your top priorities. You're making a great difference in people's lives.

Steve Keil, director of development  
Developmental Services  
of Northwest Kansas, Haynes