

Telegram survived century of challenges

One-hundred years and still going strong. That's what this newspaper — *The Norton Telegram* — is all about. On the front page of each issue this year, above the letter "T" in the newspaper's name, you will see the century mark validated in the notation Vol. 100.

The newspaper has been challenged on occasion during those years, and always came through as the best fighter in the ring. Or perhaps the favorite in the ring.

It has withstood still another challenge. Since August of 2001, the newspaper at Hays — *The Hays Daily News* — has provided daily carrier delivery in the city of Norton. That will cease effective April 1.

In a letter to subscribers, *The News* explained "that it is too expensive for us to continue daily delivery to Norton due to a lack of interest in the paper and declining circulation numbers." Fuel costs also figured into their decision.

A competing newspaper must come into a community that already has an established newspaper with something out of the ordinary. An occasional nod doesn't suffice. And often you will find the outsiders expanding on something already covered by the local paper.

We found it strange that both the Hays paper and *The Salina Journal* were both delivered in Norton. Both are owned by the same company.

We are small, there's no getting around that fact. But we do the best we can. Incidentally, in the Kansas Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest (2006), *The Telegram* captured four honors in statewide competition. We will be recognized at the annual KPA convention in April at Topeka.

For the record, we won first in column writing, third in column writing, third in special sections ("Working Women") and honorable mention for one of our photos of the downtown fire.

Of course the judges who really count are you, the subscribers and those who buy copies from our vendors. And we are proud of the fact we maintain a consistent and impressive number in that category. That's not to say we are satisfied...we never are. We would like to see those numbers grow. Call us at (785) 877-3361 for subscription information. One of our ladies will assist you. Become part of *The Telegram* family.

Your *Norton Telegram* is now 100 years old — 100 years of recording events that molded and shaped this community, this county. And the beat continues.

— Tom Dreiling

Thumbs Up to . . .

✓ **Eisenhower Elementary** students, on raising nearly \$8,500 to fight heart disease. Your hearts are in the right place! (e-mail)

✓ **Mathew Shepard**, on being named a Horatio Alger Association 2007 National Scholar, and for the \$20,000 scholarship that goes with it. (e-mail from friends)

✓ **Every person** who has their name on the April 3 ballot. You are the ones who make it happen. (by telephone)

✓ **Zane Perez, Andy Nickell, Luke Keilig, Troy Bainter, Jacob Green and John Risewick**, for placing in the Kansas State Kids Wrestling Championships in Topeka last weekend. (e-mail)

(To submit a name of names, please e-mail tom@dntnwks.com, fax 877-3732, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, mail to *The Telegram* or drop by the office at 215 S. Kansas Ave. Thanks!)

Remember, you have a date at the polling place Tuesday

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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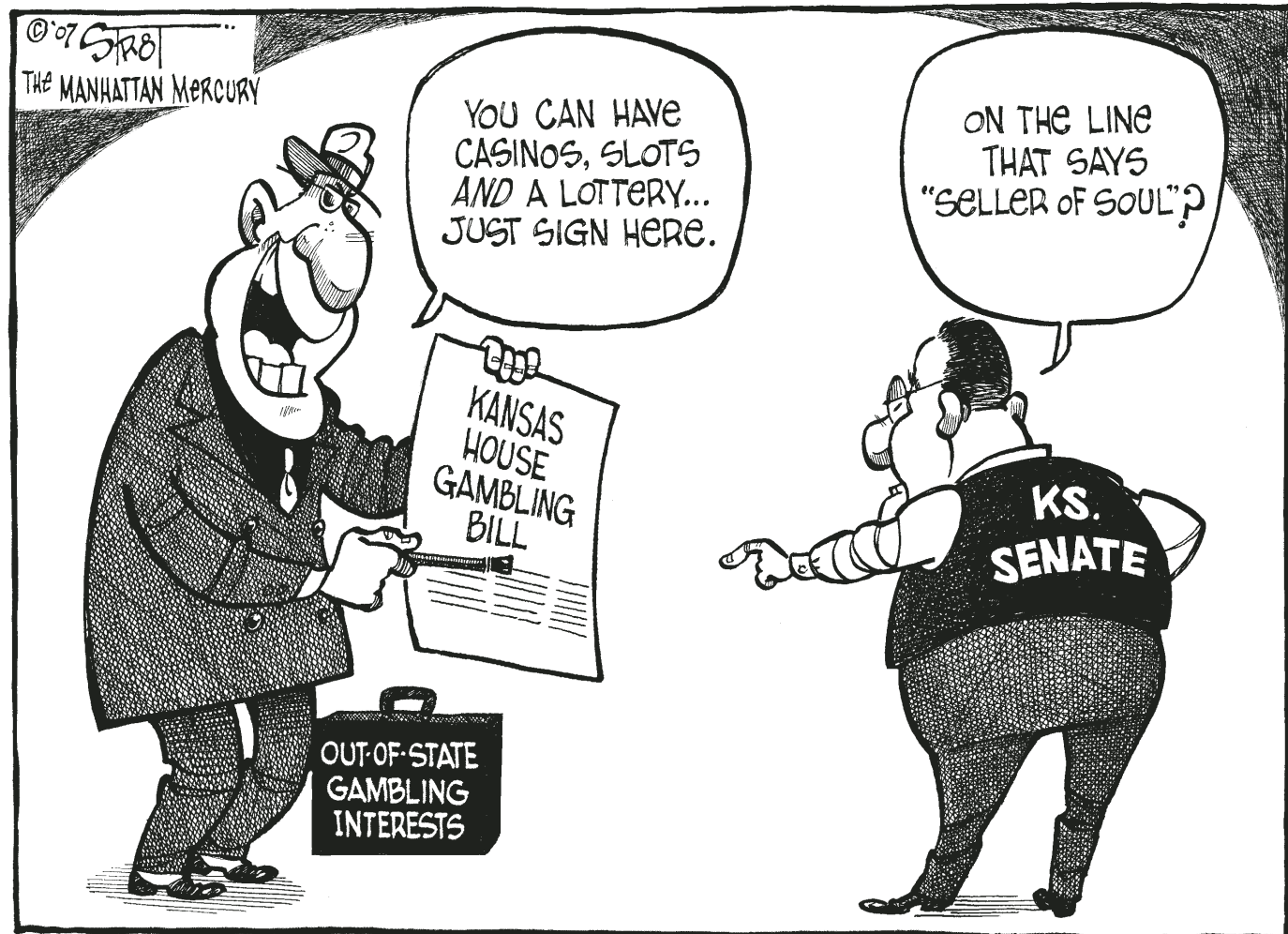
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Storm spotters deserve our thanks

We have had some nice rains this week. No complaints. Everything looks fresh and alive.

The only negatives were the tornadoes that dipped down in a wide area of western Kansas. Wednesday night was a spooky one, for sure. Dozens of those tails dropped down out of the clouds and skirted along the prairie.

It seems like we are getting more tornadoes than in the past, but I kind of feel like the weather forecasting technology and pin-point accuracy of developing tornadoes, not available a few years ago, has a lot to do with that. And that's good. But, folks, we must also tip our hats to all of those storm spotters for a very important role they play. We shouldn't minimize what they mean to the overall effort. There's just nothing like trained eyes scanning the skies.

Next time you spot a storm spotter, say, "Thanks!"

-td-

The 'pick pocket' telephone bunch is at it again. Information coming to our attention here at the paper is pretty much like all the other questionable pitches being made over the telephone: they want your social security number and your credit card number, etc. I am not clear what this latest thing is all about, but anytime anybody asks for your personal numbers, tell them to get lost!

These latest calls being made in our area, we are told, are from 408-822-1645. So I called that number. The recorded message said, "We're sorry. All circuits are busy now. Would you please try your call later." So I did. I did that 17 times over a two-day span. Matter of fact, I happened to be up at 2 in the morning Thursday, and after doing what I got out of bed to do, I thought while I'm up I'd try that number again. "We're sorry. All circuits are busy

Good Evening Norton
Tom Dreiling



now. Would you please try your call later."

Of course we all know when you get that recorded message time and again these are dupers who make sure you can't contact them. Research led me to determine the 408 area code belongs to San Jose, Calif. Inasmuch as I was having no luck at all with that number, I decided to go through an operator (now, that's an experience in itself), and have him (it was a him not a her) dial the number. His effort produced the same song and dance, "We're sorry. All circuits are busy now. Would you please try your call later."

So, in summation, **do not give out your:**

✓ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

✓ CREDIT CARD NUMBER

✓ BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER

✓ DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER

Or any other numbers you've got. If you do you are inviting trouble to enter your life. And you certainly don't want that!

-td-

There's a commercial on television that simply jabs me the wrong way. It has to do with a magnetic clasp that is supposed to aid all you ladies to easily put on your necklaces, wrist jewelry, ankle pretties, etc. I think it costs \$10 million, but if you order within the next 10 minutes it's yours for only \$14.99, and they'll even throw in a couple thousand more extra clasps.

Ridiculous! I get the feeling the com-

panies involved in this and other cheap sales gimmicks on the tube, think they are playing to a bunch of fools. If you look closely at the commercial, the necklaces and wrist wear featured, are large enough for the user to clasp them together and then pull them over their heads or onto their wrists without any problem.

If I was a jewelry wearer, I would put my trust in a professional. Here in our town, Russ' Jewelry fits that mold. Look there, instead of at the tube, when you need professional advice.

-td-

I can remember some years back when something being advertised on my 27 inch screen caught my eye. It was a slim, wrist-style watch that you could slide into the wrist band when you finished checking on the time. Wow, nobody would know your wrist band was actually housing a watch! It looked like a clever idea, so I ordered it. I tried wearing it — once. When I tried to slide the watch into the wrist band, it fell apart. No way to fix it. They say you get what you pay for, and in this case I got nothing. I think it was one of those so-called \$80 values that I purchased for only \$11.99. I was a fool then!

-td-

A motorist was unknowingly caught in an automated speed trap that measured his speed using radar and photographed his car. He later received in the mail a ticket for \$40 and a photo of his car. Instead of payment, he sent the police department a photograph of \$40. Not to be outdone, he received a letter from the police that contained another picture, this time of handcuffs. He mailed in his \$40.

-td-

Have a good evening and a good weekend. Sunday is Palm Sunday, enough said?

St. Patrick's Day always a fun time

I love St. Patrick's Day. When our kids were small we always started the day with green pancakes and that was just the beginning. We wore green and if not, well you know the resulting impact. Of course, one of the children would wear green underwear just to point out to his siblings their "short" sightedness.

Do you ever wonder what draws us to these "religious" symbols and why we are pulled into the traditions even though we may not be Catholic or even acknowledge saints in our own religion.

If you look at holidays throughout the year, saints definitely have their place in our country, St. Valentine, St. Patrick, St. Nicholas, and even All Hallows Eve (Halloween), a precursor to All Saints Day.

I think it is a way to stay grounded. Per-

haps the saints are our superheroes. We know they were ordinary people who at one point performed an extraordinary feat. It gives us hope that we too can overcome the impossible and go on with ordinary life. I, for one, like the notion of St. Patrick ridding the tiny island of Ireland of all snakes. Now that, to me, is a very worthy accomplishment. But, he is also

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



known as the one who brought Christianity to Ireland. He used the tiny clover to symbolize the Trinity and so all those items we wear or display are really a way of professing our belief.

One of the things I have always liked about my religion is the use of the Christian calendar year. It is a way of helping me set short-term goals with the hope of long-term results. I wonder if our adherence to these "holidays" provides everyone, regardless of their religious choice, a way to stay grounded in our ordinariness.

For our children, it is fun to play into the role of the different saints, whether St. Valentine, St. Patrick or others. For us, as adults, it adds lightheartedness to our days and hope to our actions.

YOUR CONNECTION:

★ **Governor Kathleen Sebelius**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232

★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514

★ **U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

★ **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124

★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399

★ **State Rep. John Faber**, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500