

Tale of two kinds of feeders

(An occasional contributor to this page submitted the following which brings a surprise conclusion. Don't peek. If you run across something that catches your attention, please send it to tom@nwkans.com. Publication isn't guaranteed, but who knows, yours could be the next one to appear in this space. In your e-mail's Subject line, indicate "E-bag." Give it a try. -td)

TD's E-bag

Then some of the birds turned mean — they would dive bomb me and try to peck me even though I had fed them out of my own pocket. And other birds were boisterous and loud — they sat on the feeder and squawked and screamed at all hours of the day and night and demanded that I fill it when it got low on food. After a while, I couldn't even sit on my own back porch anymore. I took down the bird feeder and in three days the birds were gone. I cleaned up their mess and took down the many nests they had built all over the patio. Soon, the back yard was like it used to be...quite, serene and no one demanding their rights to a

free meal. Now let's see... Our government gives out free food, subsidized housing, free medical care, free education, and allows anyone born here to be an automatic citizen. So the illegals have come by the tens of thousands. Our taxes have gone up to pay for free services. Small apartments are housing 5 families. You have to wait six hours to be seen by an emergency room doctor. Your child's second grade class is behind the power curve because over half the class doesn't speak English. Corn Flakes now come in a bilingual box. I have to press "1" to hear my bank talk to me in English. People waving flags other than Old Glory are squawking and screaming in the streets, demanding more rights and liberties. You know, maybe it's time for the government to take down the bird feeder.

Library system takes concerns to council

(Continued from Page 1) In other business, the council: • Heard a 30-minute presentation from Economic Development Director Wade Carter on past and present projects Norton Economic Development has been involved in. • Appointed Mark Keilig to fill Stella Snyder's vacant position on the Travel and Tourism Committee. • Re-appointed John Engelbert to the Norton County Economic Development Board for the city's at-large position. • Learned from Mrs. Griffiths that two underground tanks were removed at the Moffet property at 205 S. State St. One tank was left in the ground; the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has certified that there was no contamination under it. But, she said, because the property adjacent at 212 S. Kansas Ave. is a Kansas historical property and State Street property is within 500 feet of it, the city needs permission from the

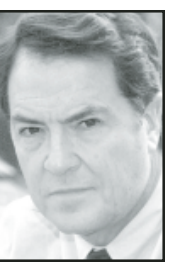
Kansas Historical Society to demolish the State Street property. She said pictures have been sent to the state historical society and they have to either approve the demolition or recommend an alternative to the city. This, she said, will hold them up, but they won't have to start over. • Heard that the swimming pool was filled Monday night. Mr. Lawson asked that the council think about whether it wanted to renovate the pool. Mr. Briery said they should put it on the ballot during the next city election to see if people wanted them to build a new pool. This way, he said, the voters can decide what they want. Mr. Lawson also asked them to think about what they wanted to do with the tennis courts. • Learned that Legion Field is closed until June 4. • Agreed to install handicap parking at the Church of God in Norton. • Asked that painting the water tower be included in the 2008 budget.

• Approved the purchase of a rescue pumper truck from Hays Fire and Equipment through a lease purchase, with the first payment to be made in 2008. The procurement policy was followed as only one supplier can meet the specifications. • Bought a Grasshopper mower with a 52 inch deck from Engel's Sales and Service for \$9,216 to be paid from the Parks fund. Councilman Jerry Jones abstained from the vote. • Bought a 2008 Altec Model AT37-G service bucket truck from Altec Industries for \$78,865 to be paid from the Electric Replacement and Street Department funds. • Learned that the salary for the new city code inspector will come from the police fund, the street fund, the water distribution fund and the electric fund. • Approved a cereal malt beverage license application, not for consumption on the premises, at 808 N. State Street for Pester Marketing Company.

Why is America so violent?

Violence begets violence, and it is contagious. America is a nation plagued by violence — in our homes, in our schools, on our streets and in our affairs of state, both foreign and domestic. Violence permeates our entertainment culture with its glamorization of death and destruction in movies and video games.

My Point of View John Whitehead



The majority of Americans today, especially the younger generation, have no sense of what is right and wrong. It can be seen throughout society, from the kids killing homeless people for a game, to the 250-pound man who beat an elderly woman to the ground. Having traded our spiritual values for a bowl of materialistic porridge, we have failed to impart meaningful lessons to our children about right and wrong. It may be that Virginia Tech gunman Seung-Hui Cho was simply a deeply disturbed individual, but we cannot ignore the fact that he was also a product of American culture. Having lived here for 15 years, he had more than enough time to absorb American values and reflect the lack of them. Thus, the question is not so much "Why is there a Cho?" but "Why aren't there more Chos, McVeighs and Klebolds?" To borrow from Shakespeare, the fault is not in our stars but in ourselves. The problem lies with us, in our communities, our families, our growing isolation from one another and our lack of spirituality and values.

(Continued from Page 1) roof, he said, and the city will just eat the cost of the temporary fix. "The temporary fix isn't budgeted," he said, "but we have to do something. It's a very nice facility and it's a shame to see it in such bad shape." The cost of the total project will be somewhere around \$750,000.

which is why bonds need to be issued, he said. He didn't know how much the temporary fix would cost, but it is expected to be in the thousands. He said the city was ready to go with this project last July, but with bonds being issued, a certified engineer's report was needed. That couldn't be started until January of 2007. The report

was just finished last week. Now that that is done, things can get started. "If weather permits, Roofmasters will be able to put the temporary roof on as early as Friday," he said. "We don't know if it will work, but it's worth a try." "At this point, anything is worth a try."

Indeed, it is estimated that by the time a child reaches 18, he or she will have witnessed 200,000 acts of violence, including 40,000 murders on television. Our nation has one of the highest murder rates and levels of incarceration of all industrialized nations in the world. We even export violence, with one of this country's most profitable exports being weapons. All too often, these same weapons fall into the hands of our enemies. America is now seen as a violent empire with continual wars that stretch back to at least the beginning of the twentieth century.

profess to believe in God, that's as far as it goes. At the end of the day, it is our actions that speak for us. And our actions show us to be a nation lacking in spirituality, morality, compassion and community. These values are neither practiced nor taught. There's no such thing as right and wrong because there are no categories anymore. Community is a spiritual thing, and we've largely lost that as well. We've become isolationists, caught up in our own private worlds where no one communicates. We turn away from the homeless, the suffering and those in pain. The parable of the Good Samaritan was not merely a Sunday school lesson about helping others; it was a reminder that community is integral to a healthy spiritual life.

If we are to reverse the tide of violence in America, the principles of nonviolence must be taught in our homes, churches, schools and communities. However, we remain a society that is armed to the teeth. Our culture glorifies violence. Even security guards at shopping malls now carry weapons. Our government is especially guilty of using violence as a quick fix. How can we teach nonviolence if our government leaders subscribe to violence? Unless something drastically changes, America's future is violence. The answer does not lie in gun control; nor is it metal detectors in the schools. What must change in the way we think about and relate to one another. It's time to get our children away from headphones, get parents away from cell phones, stop hiding behind technology and be human again.

Norton graduates walk the walk Sunday

(Continued from Page 1) Senior class president Kayleigh Brooks will give the welcome. Annette Becker and Jared Engelbert were chosen by their classmates to speak on their behalf. Annette's message is titled, "The Stage is Set", while Jared will speak on "Memories: The Test of Time". Between the two class speeches, the high school choir will perform Avril Lavigne's "Breakaway". "Awakening Hills" by Richard L. Saucedo will be performed by the high school band. High School Principal Rudy Perez will present the class and Superintendent Greg Mann will hand out diplomas. To conclude, everyone will stand and join the graduating class as they sing the school's Alma

Extension offers disaster recovery materials

MANHATTAN — From freezes to tornadoes to flooding that affected many homes, farms and other businesses, Kansans have had more than their share of natural disasters this spring. One of the places people can turn to for help is K-State Research and Extension, said Daryl Buchholz, the organization's associate director. "We have an extension office in every county in Kansas," Buchholz said. "Those offices are home base for extension agents who may know their county and its needs as well as anyone could. In addition, each county has resources or access to resources, such as publications, brochures and fact sheets that can help with such situations as cleaning up after a flood to dealing with emotions after a crisis." "Our Kiowa County office and some of our staff in Kiowa and Stafford counties were affected by

Mater. Candidates for graduation are Sandra Patricia Almaraz, Lucas Alan Bailey, Morgan Elaine Bailey, Jared Lane Bebb, Annette Marie Becker, Nathan James Broeckelman, Kayleigh Jo Brooks, Charles Michael Brown, Patrick Lynn Burton, Georgina Ray Cook, Tiresa Ann Counter, Aaron David Daniels, Christopher Nathaniel Davis, Laura Jane Elizabeth Delimont, Jordan Kyle Durham, Jennifer Nicole Eagleburger, Chelsey Diane Eberle, Jessica Lea Ebner, Matthew Joseph Engel, Jared Alan Engelbert, Rachael Elizabeth Engelsman, Brianna Catherine Felton, Alex Drew Hageman, Dana Lynn Hillebrand, Lisa Renae Jones, Brian Lee Juenemann, Christopher Eugene Kaiser, Morgan Anne Kauten, Logan Daniel Keiswetter, Lynnette Aloha Lee, Nicholas Ray Lewis, Kent James Mann, Shane Louis Mapes, Tiffany Marie Marx, Hannah Kay Mills, Ashley Nicole Milner, Gena Lee Myers, Brianne Renee Nelson, Maggie Lynn Nielsen, Nathan Donald Pollock, Jacklyn Rochelle Puent, Brandon Lee Quintana, Amie Leanne Richard, Lacey Marie Roe, Corey William Rutherford, Katelan Denee Ryan, Mark Alan Scheetz, Mathew James Lawrence Shepard, Courtney Michele Smith, Jessica Rae Sprigg, Perrell Shane Stanley II, Brett Michael Thomson, Blake Allen VanEaton, Reese Kay Volgamer, Michael Ross Ward, Blake Aron Wolf, Brett Tyson Wyatt, and Todd Allen Zink.

But why is America so violent? Starting with the genocide practiced against millions of Native Americans and continuing through the era of black slavery, the Civil War and onward to the present-day conflicts in the Middle East, our nation's collective history has been indelibly stained with blood. America's history, which few have knowledge of, is not about memorizing dates but understanding what happened in the past and how to deal with it. We have yet to truly come to terms with or make amends for our past actions. The truth is that we must deal with our problems or they'll keep haunting us. America needs an exorcism of its past.

The American community that once bound us together has been shattered. The loving relationship between parent and child is now separated by mom and dad's 24/7 connection to work in the form of a BlackBerry, computer or their maniacal attachment to a cell phone. More and more children grow up living out of a suitcase, shuttled between households of divorced parents. And the watchful, caring eye of a parent or neighbor has been shelved for youth online communities where teens don't have to learn to deal with the difficulties of real-life, face-to-face relationships.

Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.

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Some suggest that this failure to resolve our violent past has predisposed us to continuing along a path of violence. Others point the finger at a proliferation of weapons, increasingly impersonal technologies, a disparate distribution of wealth, materialism, the erosion of families, isolationism and so on. Certainly, these are all factors. But in the words of the Russian writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, we have forgotten God in the equation. A basic premise in the founding of America was that human beings were created by God. People as such were seen as special, and life was considered precious. However, this view of God and ourselves is increasingly being set aside. I often hear America referred to as a Christian nation. Yet while we might have a large number of churches and people who

Materialism has eclipsed both spirituality and community, stripping us of the very things that once gave our lives meaning and worth. As Holocaust survivor and psychologist Victor Frankl has pointed out, "People have enough to live by but nothing to live for; they have the means but no meaning." We have lost our moral compass, and it's destroying us as a

the May 4 tornadoes that hit Greensburg and other parts of central Kansas," Buchholz said. "We are monitoring the situation in those areas. While we are working to reopen temporary offices in Mullinville, residents are encouraged to tap resources in the disaster assistance center in Haviland, surrounding county offices or the Southwest Area K-State Research and Extension office in Garden City. Many disaster response resources are also available on the K-State Research and Extension Web site: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu>. Kansans and others seeking science-based practical information about recovery from disasters can download

information on a broad range of topics. Also available on the site are links to state and federal agencies and organizations involved in disaster recovery.

In addition, Kansas State University is part of the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). EDEN is a collaborative multi-state effort by Extension Services across the country to improve the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters. Information from participating universities is available at <http://eden.lsu.edu/>. Click on "more issues" on the left side of the page.

Thanks for Reading!

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Advertisement for SRS (Services Available). Includes text: "SRS", "Services Available", "Temporary Assistance To Families - Cash", "General Assistance * Child Care Assistance", "Food Assistance * Child Support Enforcement", "Medical Assistance - Medicaid & HealthWave", "Children & Adult Protective Services", "Vocational Rehabilitation", "***", "FOR HELP CALL 1-888-369-4777 OR VISIT A LOCAL ACCESS POINT FOR INFORMATION OR APPLICATION", "***", "Norton County Access Points", "Norton: Senior Center, Norton County Courthouse, Norton County Hospital, & Jamboree Foods", "Lenora: Lenora Grade School", "Almena: Almena Senior Center", "ACCESS POINTS" (vertical text)

Opinion Line: 877-6908