

Gift book provides some heavy reading

I've started reading some of the books I've received from friends over the past year or two, now that the election is over. The one most interesting was given to me — as a total surprise, I might say — by nice and nephew Susan and Patrick Sweeney, out there in Aurora, Colo. It's the heaviest book I've ever held and it's called, "The Complete Cartoons of The New Yorker" magazine. Believe it or not, it contains all 68,647 cartoons ever published in the magazine. The book itself contains around 4,000 of the cartoons and two discs neatly placed inside contain the remainder. The time span covered is from 1925-2004

What fun it is paging through the book and the laughs it brings. No, I haven't read them all, but won't touch the discs until I have. I have no clue as to how heavy the book is, but it sits on my desk here in the office and is generally a source of conversation by visitors.

Anyone wanting to see the book and page through it is certainly welcome to do so.

All I can say to Susan and Patrick again is, "Thanks, thanks, thanks."

If you are contemplating a gift for a friend or family member this Christmas, think BOOKS! And while I'm on the book kick, remember to frequent the Norton Public Library. Books and exhibits are their thing. We're blessed to have such a facility.

Good Evening Norton
Tom Dreiling



When we talk about talented people whose roots are right here in Norton, we must include Fonda Telthorst, the daughter of well known local piano teacher Sonya Montgomery. Fonda is a graduate of Norton Community High School, a native of Norton and began her successful music career at the age of 4 singing in her church in this community. A contemporary Christian singer and songwriter, Fonda lives in Kansas City where she leads contemporary Christian worship at churches, women's conferences, and other ministries. She has released *Your Name*, a CD single, *Song in My Heart*, a collection of mostly original work, and *Sing Hymn Praises*, a joint production with producer/musician Luiz Orsano of Healing Audio Studios. Fonda will be in concert in Norton on Saturday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Norton Christian Church.

Aren't you glad the election is over? I've pretty much put FOX, CNN and MSNBC on the shelf because, believe it or not, they've started talking about the 2012 election. I'll dust them off a few years down the road and peek in to see what's happening. For now, however, there are just too many other good things on the tube. After all I think I have access to 85 channels, thanks to Nex-Tech, and certainly somewhere in the mix is just what I'm looking for. I've been reacquainting myself with some of the channels I've abandoned while I soaked up the propaganda supplied by the cable dudes. Now it's back to reality — the real world. Good luck with your viewing hunt.

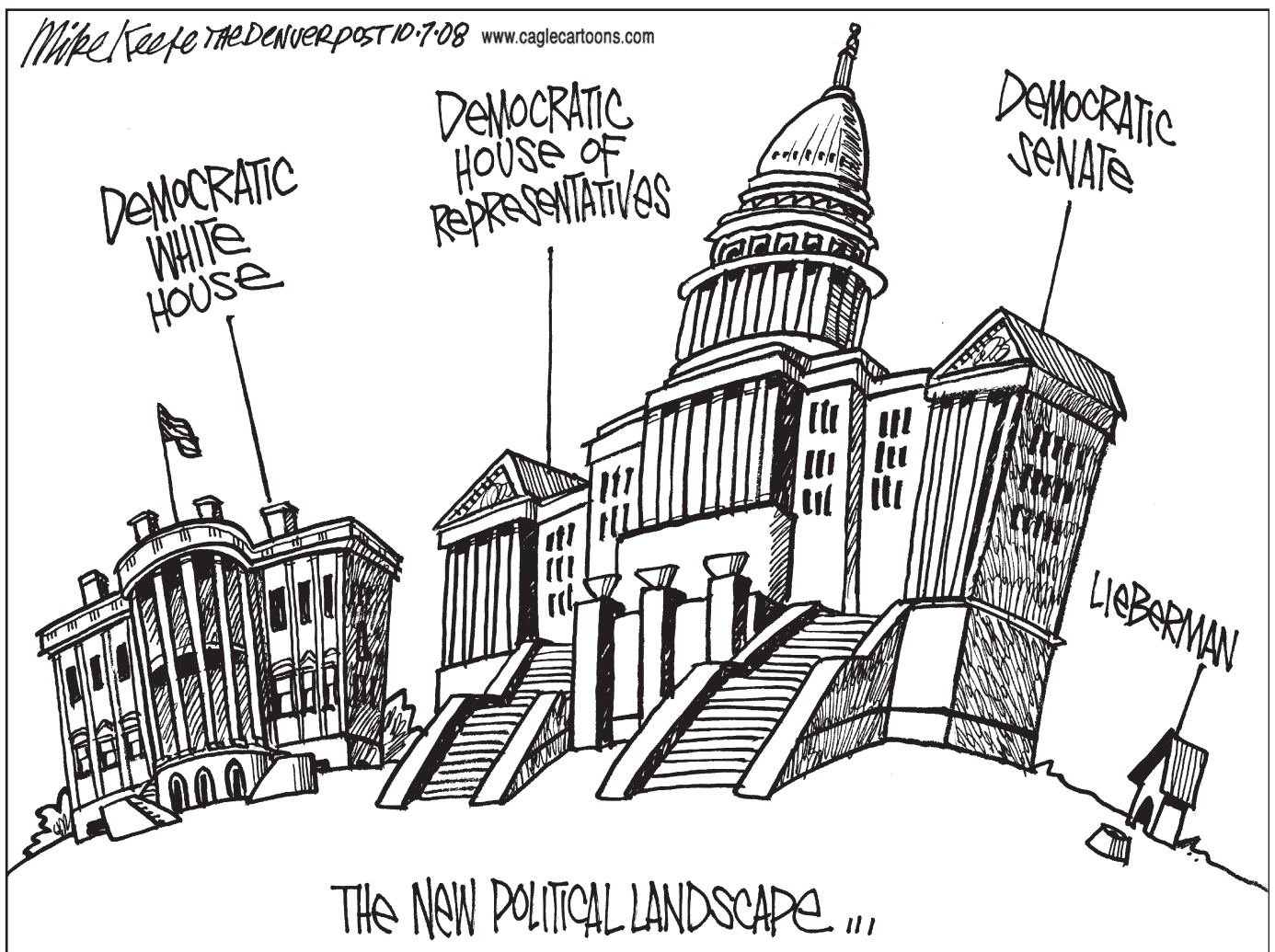
Today would be a good day to say something good about our school district! Sometimes we just seem to overlook our educational facilities. We sort of take them for granted. Next time you see a teacher or administrator in the grocery store, or any other place of business, thank them for their service to our young people.

On the lighter side... There was this guy who thought he urgently needed a few days off work, but he knew the boss would not allow him to take leave. He thought maybe if he acted 'crazy' the boss would approve his request. So, he hung himself upside-down on the ceiling and made funny noises. A co-worker (not the sharpest knife in the drawer) asked him what he was doing. He said he was pretending to be a light bulb. A few minutes later the boss came into the office and asked, "What in the world are you doing up there?" The guy told the boss he was a light bulb. The boss said, "You are clearly stressed out. Go home and recuperate for a couple of days."

The guy jumped down from the ceiling and walked out of the office, with his co-worker right behind. The boss said, "And where do you think you're going?!" He said, "I'm going home too. I can't work in the dark!"

Remember the Cookie Contest we held last December? Well, the wheels are in motion for the second annual event. I think the '07 contest generated several hundred dollars for God's Pantry. More details are in the making and we'll pass them along to you shortly. Until then, get out your baking sheets and get ready for the '08 challenge.

Have a good evening! And with this again being church weekend, please pray that our Cookie Contest will again handsomely reward God's Pantry.



Time to stop this negative chatter

Following the election I have come to realize one important thing affecting our democracy. There are people who would rather see someone fail than have the country succeed. Why is that? A great desire to be right, fear? Or is it simply arrogance? I don't know, but what I do know is the people who feel this way have already reared their ugly heads by sending out nasty emails about the direction our country will go now that Obama has been elected.

Never mind we are in the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression. Or in a war which has been funded for \$603.2 billion thus far.* Or that the unemployment rate rose to 6.5 percent (U.S. Dept. of Labor) and Obama has not even taken office. So why start with the "we will fail" mantra, when we haven't even had a chance to succeed?

Phase II
Mary Kay
Woodyard



can do what he did so well during the campaign. He can bring people together. This was not a 'squeeze by' election. If Bush could claim the 2004 election of 51 percent to 48 percent a mandate, one can only imagine what he would term Obama's 53 percent to 46 percent victory. I doubt we will hear Obama say he has a mandate, as that isn't his style.

His focus is to bring us together, encourage us to decipher how we feel and why and work to make life better for everyone.

A classmate of my oldest grandson said to him, "If Obama is elected the country will fall apart." At nine years old and already a true statesman, he responded, "I hope we prove you wrong." No arrogance, no anger, simply a dream for not just his future, but for us all.

(mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net)

Your Turn

Critical Care Transport not part of County EMS

To the Editor,

As an employee of Norton County EMS (NCEMS), and as a taxpayer in Norton County, I feel the time has come to inform all of you that the transport service, known as Critical Care Transport (CCT), is NOT affiliated with Norton County EMS. Critical Care Transport is a transport service that was brought to Norton by a former employee of Norton County EMS. The service consists of former Norton County EMS EMT's and nurses employed by the Norton County Hospital and Critical Care Transport. This transport service is based out of Ulysses and has been the primary service for Norton County Hospital since May 2008, which decreased the revenue to Norton County by several thousand dollars.

According to various hospital board members, during a commission meeting, it was stated that they have no control over who the medical staff chooses to use for their transports. As a very concerned tax-

payer supporting the Norton County Hospital, this information should be known by the residents of Norton County and the patients should be given the choice as to which service to use. The Norton County Hospital is jeopardizing every taxpayer in Norton County. Every transport taken out of Norton County by Critical Care Transport decreases revenue in Norton County and will eventually increase our tax dollars.

Norton County EMS is, and will be, the primary service for all 911 calls. We currently are a Type II (Basic Life Support) service with Type I (Advanced Life Support) capabilities. Our full-time team consists of 1 Paramedic, 2 Paramedic students, 1 EMT and 1 EMT/RN Service Director, as well as part-time/volunteers who also dedicate their time to the citizens of Norton County to make our team complete.

Norton County EMS has experienced several changes within the last year,

including a new Service Administrator Jane Wyatt EMT/RN. She has been a huge advocate for the citizens of Norton County. Since her employment we have been able to purchase 2 new electric cots, automatic defibrillators for Lenora and Almena, new monitoring equipment, etc. She has increased the level of patient care to an Advanced Life Support capability service and has carried out all the work necessary to follow up on the progress of our grant for the new building. She has also been able to obtain over \$15,000 in grant money for continuing education, in addition to a Simulaid Stat Manikin for basic and advanced training.

As a Norton County EMS employee and a Norton County taxpayer, I encourage you to support your local ambulance service. We look forward to providing you the quality care you deserve.

Respectfully,
Rhona Annon, EMT-B
Norton

Thumbs Up

To... Carol and Gary Erlenbusch, for organizing the Norton County Arts & Crafts Fair. (brought in)

To... everyone involved in making the 2008 Veteran's Day Parade another memorable event in our community. (called in)

To... the Norton Blue Jays for another successful football season. You were worth every mile we traveled! (e-mail)

To... Kellie Day, on your recent statewide award. Congratulations! (e-mail)

To... Norton County, on your exceptional turnout at the polls at the Nov. 4 election. Good show! And an extra tip-of-the-hat to the county clerk's office for running a smooth election. (The Telegram)

(To submit a name, or names, email tom.d@nwkansas.com, call either 877-6908 or 877-3361, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your continuing input. -td)

Quote of the week

"...But we CAN resurrect it -- IF we start TODAY to take action, by both booting out our failed fake-conservative 'leadership' AND vowing to FIGHT tooth and nail against the coming tidal wave of destructive, anti-American legislation that's now heading our way... thanks to Obama, Pelosi and Reid. — Michael Reagan in his rant against the Republican Party and its leadership in the '08 election.

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