

### Can you help out this Colorado resident?

I received the following note earlier in the week. Maybe someone out there can assist in this matter. It reads: I would like to find the book, "The First Eighty Years in New Almelo," by John W. Hickert in 1958 and printed by Wilson Carter Printers, Inc., Norton, Kansas. I know it's been years since it was printed; it is a small blue book, and if you know where there is one please let me know. Mrs. Walter Arthur, 3630 Vance St. # 110, Wheatridge, CO 80033, or phone (303) 463-0719.

What better time of the year is there to help with this request than Christmas? Thanks, in advance from me, for anything you can do in this regard.

For some reason or other, the conversation in the office here Wednesday turned into football — and tackling in particular. Because two of the employees are as dedicated as can be to the Big Red machine across the state line, I suggested the tackling topic might be something they wouldn't be familiar with. Just seconds after that comment, Dana Paxton chirped from the back row, "But we sure know what touchdowns are!" Ouch! I'm a K-State Wildcat football fan and Dana and Christie Anderson are Nebraska solids. And we rib one another constantly. And of course my 'Cats haven't looked like the 'Cats of the Bill Snyder era these past three seasons, while this season Nebraska seems to be turning things around with their football program.

This is the first time ever that a Christmas tree is not part of my interior decorations at my place. Instead, a mechanical snowman, scarf, hat and all, is the center of attention. When plugged in, his arms move up and down as he positions a rod — on which three large marshmallows are attached — over a glowing fire. Different. Decorations that I would generally use to trim the tree can be found in various other places. I tossed and turned for weeks debating with myself the absence of a Christmas tree. Now, it doesn't even surface. Matter of fact, I took the artificial tree I had for some years (originally I thought of buying a new one to replace it with), attached a note to it and sat it outside on my patio in my apartment complex. The note read, "Yours for the taking." It didn't stand outside very long.

Speaking of Christmas decorations, we have quite a few energetic outside decorators. Take a drive around the community some evening and you will be delightfully

Good Evening Norton  
Tom Dreiling



treated. I try not to pass along addresses of those homes in the paper because, let's face it — and we're no exception — there are those in our midst who seem to enjoy vandalizing such efforts, and they would only have to sit down with pencil in hand and circle the places I would recommend you view.

I just don't want to make it any easier for them to do their dirty little thing.

You will want to be at Washington Street Park at 7 p.m., next Thursday (Dec. 18) for the grand prize drawing to conclude the *Christmas on Us* retail promotion. Someone will walk away with \$1,000 in scrip money, good at any of the participating sponsors, and two other people will each get \$100. And, if there is any money left in the \$50 instant winner category, those will also go home with winners at the drawing. Be there! Oh, in case of inclement weather, the ladies in the office said the senior center will be the alternate location.

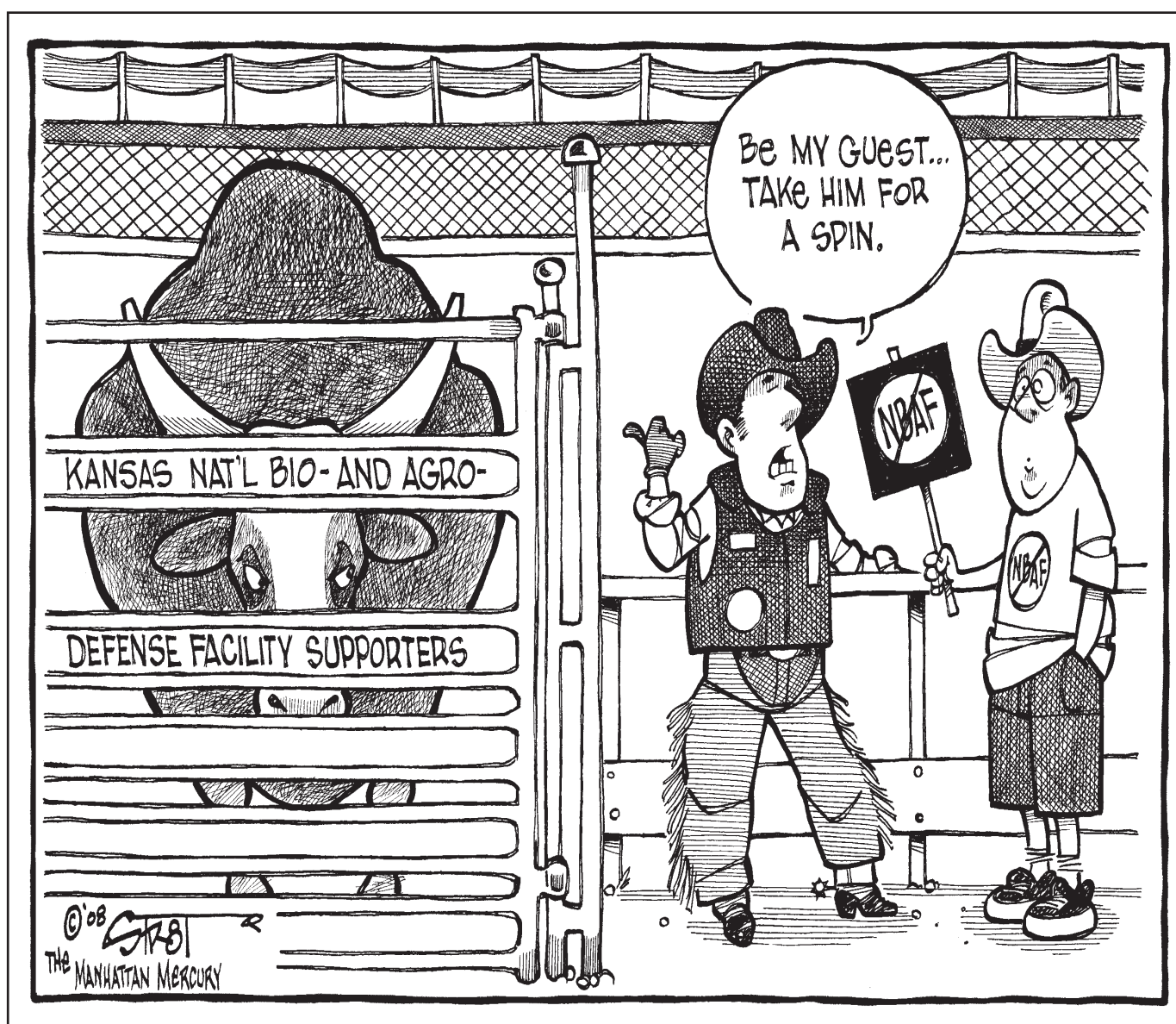
Here is the story as it was told to me:

The rest of the world cannot understand how after bitter election campaigns, American politicians can return to reality. For instance, Gov. Sarah Palin has invited to her great state of Alaska, the men who defeated her, President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden. She has provided a moose hunting trip for their enjoyment and has hired two other prominent men to assist them. Vice President Dick Cheney will instruct them in safe gun handling and Sen. Ted Kennedy will drive them back to their cabins in the evening.

Wow! Gotta' hand it to Sarah, she thinks of everything. And in case you might not get the drift, ask someone older because there are memories that live on forever.

And what gives with that Illinois governor? Maybe the roots of his thick head of hair have strangled his brain. Or something like that.

Have a good evening! And as you settle into your place of worship this weekend, give thanks to the Almighty for keeping you on the path of decency.



### Sister-in-law had the magic wand

They say that artificial pre-lit Christmas trees are one of the worst things going for the environment. They have metal, plastic, electrical, etc. in every piece, therefore cannot be recycled and will never biodegrade. But I'm not crazy about the real trees either. Such a fire hazard! I've had the same artificial tree for years, so thus far I've avoided the worry of how to dispose of it.

This year I decided I was not putting it up. Which is a trick because actually I never took it down! It is a pencil tree, tall and slim. It took about 4 hours to decorate last year. I believe I did it during a blizzard! No one was around to help me (not that they would have anyway). When Christmas was over I got the idea it could go upstairs decorated saving time this year. I asked Elizabeth if she would help me. She said, "NO!"

In a snit of "I'll show her," I got the tree upstairs by myself! I put it in the closet, and there it languished, all summer long. The adrenaline hasn't been pumping fast enough for me to tackle bringing it downstairs. Though I did bring it out of the closet, the bedroom looks real festive!

I guess the good boys and girls will find their presents up there Christmas morning. (If I were Elizabeth I would be

Back Home Nancy Hagman



too, making the idea of a pre-lit tree seem less and less like a good idea. Planned obsolescence?

Over the weekend the hubby's brother (Rod, an engineer) was up. He helped their sister get her outdoor lighting display up and running. She marveled at his brilliance. He "fixed" a strand of lights she was ready to throw into the next county. It's 2 miles but properly motivated we fifty somethings can accomplish some amazing feats!

Rod's wife, Anita, told us all you have to do is get this tool they make specifically for fixing Christmas lights. She is also the mother of an engineer and she seemed to understand how it worked.

It sounded so simple, I decided to go to the hardware store and get one for myself! It was even 20 percent off! Got home, read the directions, hooked it up and the tree is now fully lit! I didn't have to replace a single bulb. I don't have as good a grasp on how it works as Anita does but, you know, when a thing works, I don't really care about the hows and whys of it.

Christmas is a season of miracles anyway. Just believe! And if you have a strand of lights that don't work, give me a call. I'll share my miracle with you!

(gneph@yahoo.com)

### Sound Off

## Deadline near for Medicare Part D options

The Medicare Rx Access Network of Kansas issues this reminder that the Medicare Part D open enrollment period continues through Dec. 31.

Medicare Part D beneficiaries are able to switch their prescription drug plan if there is another plan that better fits their need and new enrollees are able to join for the first time.

The Medicare Rx Access Network of Kansas is working diligently to reach out to all the Medicare Beneficiaries for the 2008 open enrollment.

The Medicare Rx Access Network is a great source for Medicare beneficiaries to gain valuable knowledge on which Medicare Part D plans will work best for them, allowing them to maximize benefits and save, said Heather Craig, Health Care Advocate at the United Way of Greater

Kansas City.

Seniors wanting to compare their plans should visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE. Kansans also have the Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) and counseling is available at 1-800-860-5260. These resources will allow them to easily compare their current coverage to their medical and financial needs to determine the most suitable option available to them in their area.

Recent polls consistently show that Medicare Part D enrollees are overwhelmingly satisfied with the coverage they are receiving under the Part D program. Of three polls taken within the past 12 months, 85 percent to 89 percent of Part D enrollees have indicated they are either "satisfied" or "very satisfied"

with their coverage. These findings come from polls conducted by Medicare Today, AARP and The Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive.

The Medicare Rx Access Network of Kansas remains committed to sharing resources, coordinating activities and disseminating information to Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers about the Medicare Part D drug coverage.

We encourage all Medicare beneficiaries to take advantage of this open enrollment time to review and compare plans to ensure they have the coverage that best meets their needs.

Leslie Wilcox, Coordinator Medicare Rx Access Network of Kansas Topeka

### Thumbs Up

To... the Norton Community High School singers, who gave a new meaning to our national anthem in Gross Memorial Coliseum at Fort Hays State University a week ago today. You made this Norton resident so proud. (e-mail)

To... The Norton Daily Telegram, for the great job you do in publishing the local news and events that affect our area. (e-mail, and because so many people still refer to it as a "daily," the editor used the salute as it was received)

To... the unsung heroes, who put on Santa attire each year to spread the Christmas message in the Norton community and the communities in our area. (e-mail)

To... the teenager who so graciously helped me with my groceries and refused a tip for the service rendered. (by telephone)

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

OpinionLine: 877-6908, 877-3361

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