

Help us find Mr. and Mrs. 'Sweetheart'

Keep your eye on The Telegram. With Valentine's Day approaching we are in the midst of putting together a Norton County *Sweethearts* contest. The contest will eventually pick a married couple to honor on Valentine's Day. The only stipulation is the married couple you vote for must be at least 21 years of age and reside in Norton County. There will be prizes for the winning couple.

There is nothing to write, simply use the ballot contained in the full page ad, fill it out, cut it out and deliver it to any of the advertisers helping The Telegram promote the contest. It's that simple. And each time you see the ad you can clip out the ballot, fill it out and take it to any of the advertisers.

This is a new approach to celebrating Valentine's Day in Norton County. On Feb. 11, we will gather up all the ballots, put them in a drum or box, and pick out one and that will be the winning couple. We will do a story, with accompanying photo of the winner for the front page of the Friday, Feb. 13 issue.

This would be a nice way to honor Mom and Dad, or Grandma and Grandpa, or perhaps even your married children. This is a first-time project and we hope for a nice run of advertisers and subsequent participants.

The full page ad will appear in Tuesday's (Jan. 20) issue and then reminder ads on Jan. 27 and Feb. 3.

Good luck!

Maybe President-elect Barack Obama wasn't a Democrat after all. Nor was he a Republican. Or a Libertarian. Or whatever else carries a party label. Maybe President-elect Barack Obama fooled everybody and is, rather, an independent.

The way he is putting together his administration is surprising a lot of people. Some aren't very happy, but most are. What we are witnessing is what the soon-to-be 44th President of the United States of America promised throughout his campaign: CHANGE! And change is what's taking place. He is reaching way beyond the expected.

Just this week, he dined at the home of conservative columnist George Will with several other conservative writers in attendance. He is also hosting a dinner for Sen. John McCain — a class act, indeed!

The way he is putting his cabinet and his administration in general together, is unlike anything we've ever seen before. He is opening every window in the White House to let out the stale air and let in the fresh.

Republicans on Capitol Hill have been kind in their reaction to his choices to head the various departments. Democrats, for most part, are also in accord, although there are

Good Evening Norton
Tom Dreiling



some stale old bones on the Hill that feel they were snubbed because he didn't confer with them first. They are witnessing CHANGE, something they haven't seen in their years molding away in the offices of the people.

Next Tuesday, Barack Obama sheds the president-elect tag and becomes the President of the United States of America. The first African-American in the White House, and that, in itself, represents CHANGE!

It won't be a bed of roses for the 44th President, but you, me, and everyone else — regardless of how you voted last November — should do what we can to keep the man, who is the face of our great nation, running successfully along Change Blvd.

Thoughts. Prayers. Words of encouragement. These are things we can all do for the incoming president. And we should also keep President George W. Bush in our thoughts and prayers as he steps out of the spotlight and begins the transformation from public figure to private citizen.

We are now just days away from the beginning of a new chapter in our country's history.

Reminder: Deadline to file for city council or school board is noon Tuesday, Jan. 27. This includes incumbents and those who would like to be part of the decision making process.

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque.

It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" The pastor said,

"Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, "Which service, the 8:30 or the 10:30?"

Have a good evening! And as you prepare for the service at the church of your choice this weekend, rest assured your name won't appear on the plaque.

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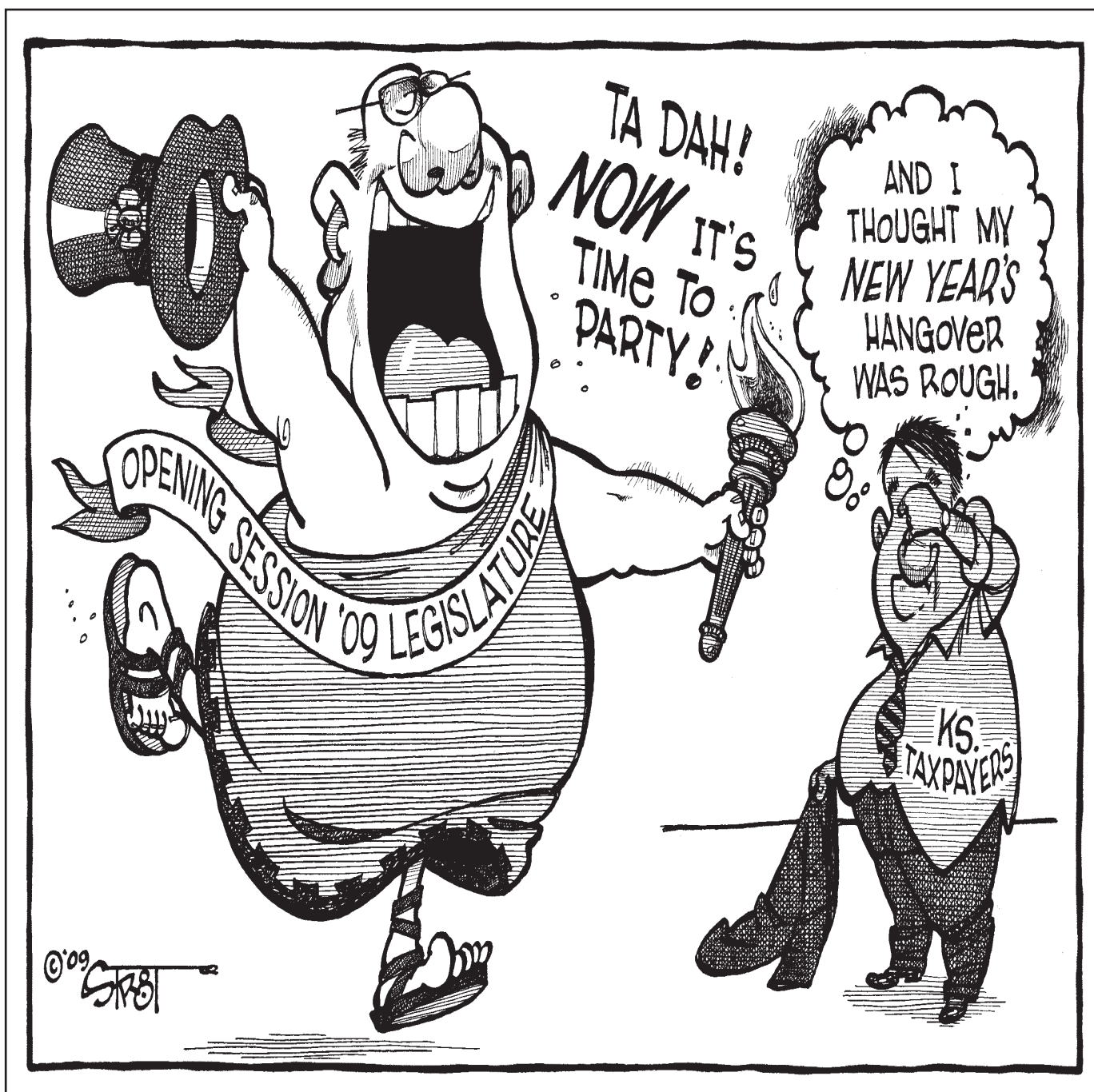
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Obama, JFK have something in common

When JFK was running for the presidency many said, "It would be a cold day in hell when a Catholic became President." And it was, it was a bitter cold day and probably much like the one awaiting President-elect Obama when he lays his hand on the Bible (President Lincoln's Inaugural Bible) next Tuesday.

I was in high school when John Kennedy became President and I recall the excitement. My dad was one of only a handful of Democrats in Norton County and when Kennedy made a campaign stop (I think in Hays), my dad shook his hand. I remember wishing I could have been there. It was a time of great celebration.

Now here we are almost five decades later, preparing to swear in the first African American, Barack Obama. For some it carries the same feelings of a "cold day in hell", but the American people have once again, as we do every four years for

Phase II
Mary Kay
Woodyard



the office of President, made our voices heard.

One of the greatest aspects of this inauguration is the suggestion of the Obama/Biden camp to encourage communities across the nation to host or attend a celebration event. Not a celebration of the Democratic victory, but rather a celebration of Democracy. I don't need to rejoice in a political party victory and certainly never in a celebration of another's political defeat, but rather it is an opportunity to share in those traits which make this country great.

If you look at the following website highlighting scheduled inaugural celebrations www.pic2009.org/blog/entry/8500_service_events_on_usaservice.org_-_sign_up_for_one_today/ there is a huge blank area over the middle of our country so I am going to place a star over Norton, Kan. I am going to celebrate the fact I live in a country which only fifty years ago had segregated bathrooms, only recently had the second female vice presidential candidate and who was able to survive as a country a devastating attack which killed not just Americans but citizens of numerous other countries as well.

The beauty of this country is this, just as my opposition to the war does not reflect a lack of respect for our military, the victory of a Democrat does not reflect the Republican's disbelief in democracy. So join me as we celebrate this wonderful country.

Sound off!

Rotary seeks professionals for goodwill exchange

Rotary District 5670 [40 counties in north central and northwest Kansas] is seeking four outstanding professionals or business persons to visit Mexico from June 1-July 1, 2009, as part of the Group Study Exchange (GSE) program of Rotary International. The area of Mexico to be visited includes the Pacific coastal cities of Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta.

Through the program, teams of young professionals from two different countries exchange visits. For four weeks, team members experience the way of life, customs, and vocational practices of another country, while sharing information about their homeland. A GSE Team from Mexico will visit communities in Kansas in April-May 2009.

The purpose of the Group Study Exchange program is to promote inter-

national understanding and goodwill through personal connection. While in Mexico, team members will stay in Rotarian homes and have the opportunity to meet their professional counterparts. They will also give presentations to Rotary clubs and other groups about their home country and life in Kansas.

The Rotary International pays for round-trip airfare, and Rotary club members in the host country provide meals, lodging, and group travel in their district. Individual GSE team members pay only for their personal and incidental expenses.

Young adults between the ages of 25-40 who are interested in applying should be employed full-time in a business or profession. Applicants must live or be employed in Rotary District 5670.

For an application or more information, please contact Rotarian Jan van Asselt at 620-241-3899 or e-mail janvanasselt@cox.net. Applications are due by March 15, 2009.

Rotary International is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. There are 1.2 million men and women in Rotary, serving in some 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 165 countries.

Rotarian Mr. Jan van Asselt,
Rotary District 5670
District Coordinator for
Group Study Exchange
McPherson 67460
(620) 241-3899

Thumbs Up . . .

To... **Ty Burns**, for your contribution with your hair. (telephone)

To... **the Norton** ambulance crew, for the professional conduct rendered at the scene of an emergency call earlier this week. (e-mail)

To... **Carolyn Applegate**, our newest county commissioner! (e-mail)

To... **Zac Dreher**, for being selected to the Shrine Bowl West Team.. Grrreat! (telephone)

To... **City Councilman Ron Briery**, for your wonderful service to this community. You will be missed. (e-mail)

To... **Leroy Lang**, enjoy retirement (ha!); you will be missed as a county commissioner. (e-mail)

(To submit a name or names, please e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, telephone 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)