

### We were one deer shy of seeing no deer at all

**B**y golly we almost did it! Almost. We drove to Colby Wednesday afternoon and back Wednesday evening and never saw a deer. None. In fact we commented about that. As often as we take that twice a month drive, we always see deer alongside the highway, but Wednesday evening it looked like we were going to make it back free!

**Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling**



Well, we were three miles from town and Dana (Paxton, ad director) abruptly slowed the van down and moved to the far right along the emergency lane. "What's up?" I asked. "There's a deer on the other side of the highway," she said. I didn't see it until we were almost next to it. She honked, the deer looked over, smiled and winked, and then it went on its merry way and we continued our drive into Norton. (Well, really, the deer didn't smile and wink!)

I can spot deer during daylight, but at night I never see them. Last trip she and I took there were herds of them all over the place. She seems to be able to spot them from quite a distance. That's just not the case for me.

I generally ask Dana to drive. You see she's had an experience with a deer getting smacked by a car in which she was a passenger. I think that experience gives her an instinct that escapes me.

There's another thing about Dana doing the driving: we always seem to get to the Colby meeting and back to Norton **much** sooner than when I'm behind the wheel. I wonder why that is?

**If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?**

**As I write this** Thursday morning, I keep looking skyward to see if any clouds are forming. After all, the weather experts tell us we could be in for anywhere from 4-10 inches of snow by Friday, with enough wind to make driving conditions less — much less — than favorable. It seems the greater amount of snow is expected along U.S. 36 from Phillipsburg west to the Colorado state line and north to the Lexington, Neb., area. But like I say, this is being written Thursday morning around 11 and the forecast could change. We need the moisture, no doubt about that, but we don't need the wind to blow it into Oklahoma.

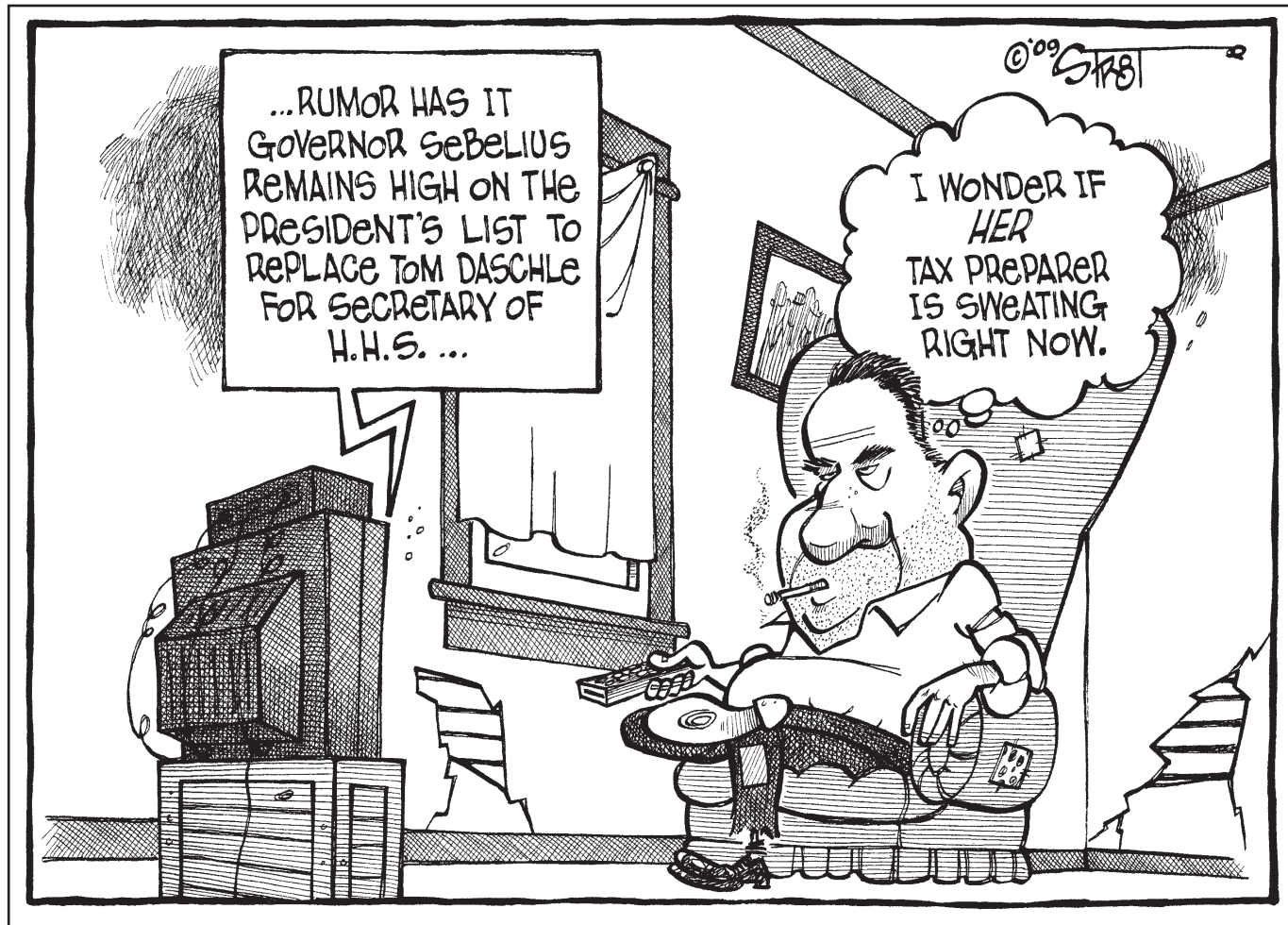
**Thursday was President Lincoln's Birthday.** Monday is Presidents' Day. Feb. 22 is President Washington's Birthday. Maybe we could squeeze in a **Current Living Presidents' Day.** After all we have five of them — Presidents George Herbert Walker Bush, George W. Bush, William Jefferson Clinton, Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama. When was the last time we had five living presidents? OK, you history buffs, that's your assignment!

**Hypertension** — something many of us deal with on a daily basis — will be the topic of discussion on Smoky Hills Public Television's "Doctors on Call," at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. The panelists will be Gary Benton, M.D., a cardiothoracic surgeon from Hays, and Jeffery Curtis, M.D., a cardiovascular disease specialist, also from Hays. For those who miss the Tuesday program, it will be replayed on Feb. 22 at 3:30 p.m. The live broadcast on Tuesday allows viewers the opportunity to call in and direct their questions on specific health topics to doctors and other medical professionals. This series has been highly popular and has covered a lot of health concerns. Hypertension should draw a good size audience. Smoky Hills Public Television can be found on Nex-Tech channel 9 here in Norton.

**The stimulus package** could be on President Obama's desk by Monday, which is, as I mentioned earlier, Presidents' Day. An appropriate time for him to place his signature on a hard fought — some called *bad*, others called *good* — piece of legislation. Only time will tell if the stimulus package is good for our country, or not so good. The way it currently stacks up is easy to explain: if you are a Democrat, it's good, if you are a Republican, it's bad. That's called politics!

**I'm not picking** on anybody, but it looks to me like some of the morning female anchors on the cable side of the news are getting skinnier and skinnier. There's one young lady in particular who, when the camera catches her from the side, looks much like a toothpick with clothes on. I often wonder when people in those positions playing to large audiences, ever give any thought to the example they are passing along. Health beats starvation any day.

**Have a good evening!** And if your calling finds you at the house of worship of your choice this weekend, come as you really are!



### Let's get off Michael Phelps' back

**D**uring the summer Olympics, Patricia, Craig and I enjoyed a visit and a meal with former Nortonites, Barbara and Alena Loyd. Like everyone else in the world we were talking about Michael Phelps.

He had a pretty good story but at the same time appeared to basically be a goofball. Alena finished high school in Kansas City where they have competitive swimming and diving in the schools. She put forth the theory that with swimmers diminished mental capacity is an occupational hazard because they have to hold their breath a lot.

Since then whenever we see any athlete do something dumb we laugh and wonder if oxygen deprivation is part of their training regimen. The very best friends are those who make us laugh again and again!

In watching Phelps since the Olympics, I developed a new found respect for his intellect. He advertises for Rosetta Stone, claiming he learned to speak Chinese using it. Rosetta Stone might make learning a language easy but it's still hard. English is derived from Greek and Latin as are European languages. Chinese is a complete other thing.

Off subject, I have a cousin who learned Russian when he retired? Why? A hobby, I guess. He never went to Russia, he did not have family over there he was trying to connect with. I think I'll stick to sewing!

**Back Home Nancy Hagman**



ously I wasn't."

I understand him losing his endorsements. Kellogg's expected a certain image. Laws have been broken so it is proper the police investigate. But I was stunned at the veracity of the investigation. You'd think they had Osama Bin Laden in their sights. It's not like he was taking performance enhancing drugs which would bring in to question how he earned all those gold medals. We are told marijuana is an ambition killer. So it hardly even seems likely he could be a regular user of the drug. They wouldn't have to suspend him from swimming; he wouldn't be interested in getting up off the couch and finding his goggles anyway.

In the meantime Alex Rodriguez admits to abusing performance enhancing drugs, cries a few tears and says he didn't really understand what he was doing and the pressure was so great, etc! It appears he will be given a pass. No loss in pay, no suspensions, he won't lose his past honors or be prevented from entering the baseball hall of fame.

Apparently, Major League Baseball has held its breath too long. And the rest of us are holding ours because of the stench of spoilt multi-million dollar players whining over how tough it is.

What does it all mean? And in the end how important is it? I don't know. I just know (thanks to Latin 101) what "Mary est pulchra" means. Do you? (gneph@yahoo.com)

I took two semesters of Latin in college. I'd like to say it has been immensely helpful but all I remember is "Mary est pulchra." And something about all roads leading to Rome. If that's true how come I haven't made it there yet? I learned to conjugate in Latin, what fun! Occasionally it comes in handy when working a crossword puzzle.

Okay, back to Phelps. Apparently forgetting the whole world is interested in what he is doing and that companies are paying him to project a wholesome image, he used an illegal drug, marijuana.

And because he has held his breath so long he wasn't smart enough to claim (like former President Clinton) that he didn't inhale. Or like Al Gore that he didn't really enjoy it. Or like Obama everyone of that era did it or whatever his excuse was. Really smart people get away with telling us dumb things all the time. We swallow it and let them become leaders of the free world.

Poor Michael. When asked what he was thinking, he was honest, he said, "Obvi-

### Time to spend money on our country

**I**t is comforting to know that with the new year (or inauguration) comes increased concern from Republicans about spending money. The stimulus package rings up at around 837 billion dollars, or put another way about seven years in Iraq.

For the last eight years we have tried it the W. way... and it failed. So why not give this a chance? I certainly don't mean blanket approval. We tried that last fall, when Democrats joined with Republicans and George W. to pass a stimulus package, a package with little oversight. I don't fault the Republicans for the fiasco. I don't believe anyone could have anticipated the greed and arrogance of some of these company CEOs. The point is last fall Democrats and Republicans joined together to pass a package in hopes of re-stimulating the economy.

I am not an economist and to be sure there are no guarantees about anything in the program, but several economists,

**Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard**



not politicians, say it has the elements needed to promote a turnaround. These are uncharted waters in uncharted times so why not give this a chance.

States are hurting and Kansas is among them. Aiding states is not big government it is supporting the inner workings of our country. The old saying, "it takes money to take money" could be the mantra for the federal government. Creating jobs means more people working, more tax money coming into the federal government hence a stronger economy.

Three Republican Senators voted in favor of the stimulus package. Is it a sur-

prise two of them are women? However the tragedy of this is these three now hold extreme power and they appear or at least two of them appear to want to make use or perhaps it is abuse of this advantage. Why does Washington make it so hard? To be sure this package isn't perfect, nor was the one passed in the fall, but it is a start.

If we look at the stimulus package perhaps we can decipher our ideals... education, infrastructure, health care, all basic concerns of the 'average' citizen. There are no guarantees, except it is almost a certainty doing nothing will create nothing. Life is full of challenges and opportunities. Pouring our money into Iraq has not strengthened our country, quite the opposite. Now would be a good time to pour money into our own country and then in eight years maybe we can call a victory over our economy. Hmmm maybe that is precisely why the Republicans aren't voting for the package. (mkwoyard@ruraltel.net)

### Sound Off!

### Don't forget the Ostmeyer, Faber meeting Saturday

The possibility of closing the Norton Correctional Facility has justifiably created serious concerns in the community and the county.

These concerns have been communicated to Topeka via long distance means of e-mail, phone calls and letters. Those people who became involved enough to try to shorten the miles by speaking out

should be applauded.

The Norton County Republican Central Committee feels the people of Norton County should have the opportunity to address their representative and senator face to face to express their concerns. Saturday morning, Rep. John Faber and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer will be in Norton at the Town and Country Kitchen at 9 a.m.

(for that purpose).

The coffee and doughnuts will be on the Norton County Republican Central Committee, but you the people have to provide the conversation to be heard. Hope to see you there.

Shari Archer Norton

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