

Election turnout, temperature both low

The voter turnout in Tuesday's elections in Norton County and the low temperature election morning came close to matching one another. The voter turnout was 12 percent, the overnight low temperature was 18 degrees.

Considering the fact we have 3,709 registered voters countywide and managed to attract only 441 to the polls, this election came close to being in the category of a *no-show event*.

Maybe what we need to do is charge those who are registered to vote but fail to show up \$1 to help offset the cost of the election. Whether they vote or not, the cost to prepare for and put on an election is still there. In the case of Tuesday's elections, we could have harvested \$3,268. That way every registered voter who bypassed the election took part. While this proposal is a tongue-in-cheek thing, I understand there are times when it is impossible for some folks to cast a ballot.

Take my mother (Mollie Eichman Dreiling) for example. She was, what I often called "a determined Democrat." In the presidential election of 1972, South Dakota Senator George McGovern was the Democratic Party's nominee and her candidate, period!

Unfortunately, my mother had surgery several days before the election, and just two days prior — Sunday — a blood clot set in, resulting in her passing at the hospital that afternoon. That stunned the family, considering she was making such good post-op progress. So, in deference to her, I cast my ballot for Sen. McGovern in that election. He lost, and had my mother not passed, I'm sure that would have been one of her most disappointing moments.

Back to our Tuesday elections... Early chatter over the turnout seems to point to a lackluster campaign by those wanting to serve — whether as newcomers or incumbents. It would be interesting to know how many knocked on doors, shook hands in the business community, attended functions, went out of their way to communicate.

You have to ask for votes, you can't take anything for granted. In many cases friendships are left outside the voting booth.

Maybe the next election we can turn things around.

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

"This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just

Let's Chat Tom Dreiling



haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"

The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."

Gee, it felt like we were in the midst of winter when we all rolled out of bed Tuesday morning. The temperature, recorded by Carolyn Kingham at her farm northwest of town, showed 18 degrees! Wow, that's not an April number! On that date a year ago, the overnight low was a respectable 32. Forecasts seem to indicate we'll be rotating between the obnoxious and the respectable — as far as weather goes — for another week or so, then things will begin to be more normal like. Like what?

North Carolina's championship victory over Michigan State in the NCAA finals in Detroit this week, was more one-sided than I had expected. It never really turned into the match up I had hoped it would. I waited...and waited...and waited for the Spartans to close the gap, but each time it looked like they got a start on doing that, the Tar Heels would brush it aside. North Carolina ended the season with a 34-4 record and the Spartans 31-7. Michigan State did have the home court advantage playing in Ford Field where estimates put the Spartans' fan number at 60,000 of the 72,000 on hand. Michigan State's campus is less than 100 miles from Detroit. The team I picked to win it all was Louisville. Ooops!

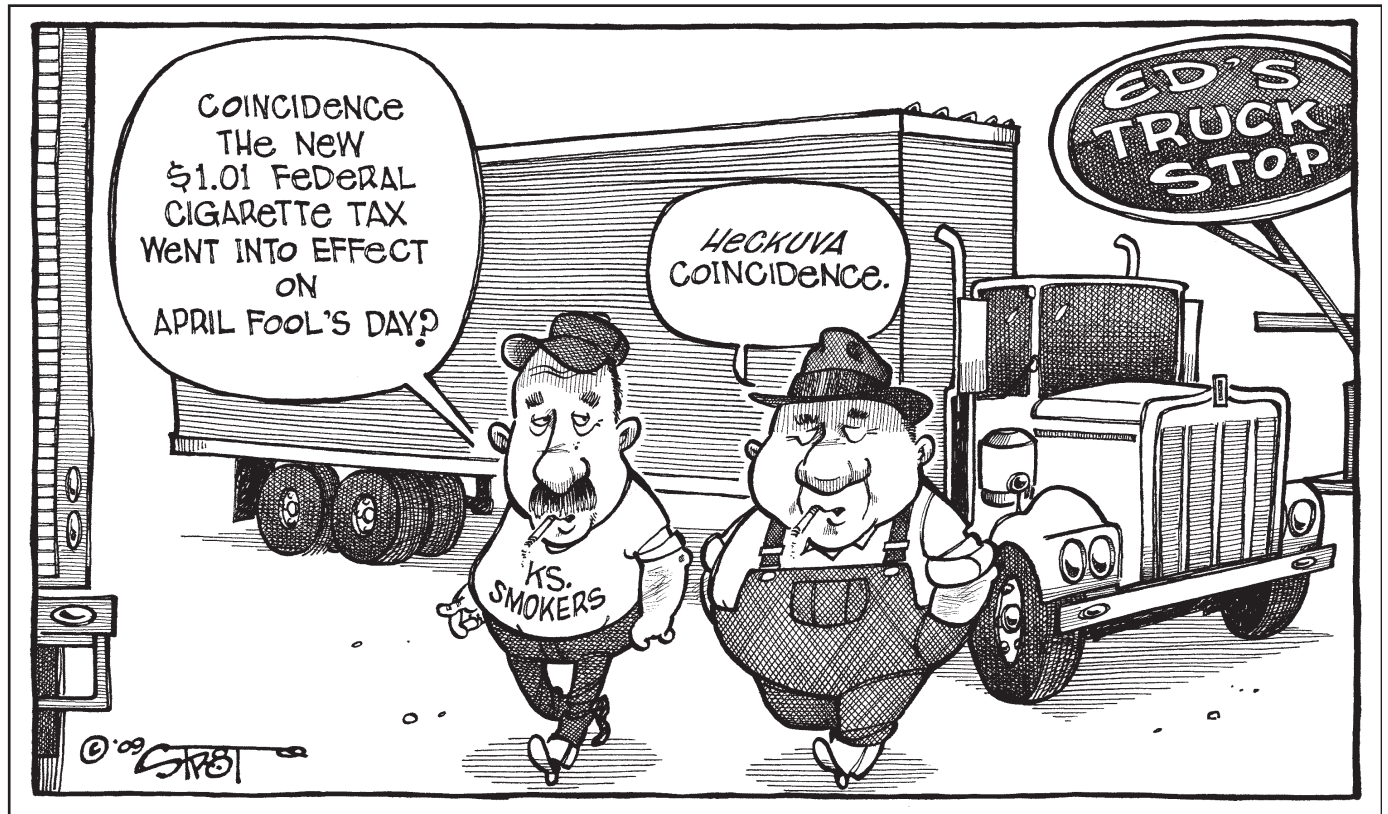
A first grade teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David."

The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary."

The third student got in up front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am Methodist, and this is a casserole."

Have a good evening! And regardless of your beliefs, carry this thought with you to the church of your choice this Easter Sunday: everybody loves a goooood casserole!



This liberal applauds O'Reilly's decision

One has to admit Bill O'Reilly is probably one of television's most popular entertainers. His latest announcement is his boycott of Sean Penn films because he says, it is "his right as an American". That is probably one of the first things upon which he and I have agreed. The reason for his boycott is because, according to Bill O'Reilly, Sean Penn has given aid to Ahmadinejad, Hugo Chavez and Saddam Hussein. I don't know if it is true or not, but Mr. O'Reilly believes it is and for that reason he will not see anymore of Penn's films. That is why I love this country, it is Mr. O'Reilly's right and that is what we as, liberals, fight to uphold.

Can you imagine having to view something because the government required it? Neither can I. And I believe maybe Bill O'Reilly has finally realized this as well. He admitted Mr. Penn is a great actor. I wouldn't know because I have never seen any of his films, not because of the actor's political views, but because the films in which he has starred are not really films of my choice. I must admit I seldom choose my films based on someone's political agenda, but I can understand someone deciding the movie entrance fee would support something in which they didn't believe.

When Rush Limbaugh was defended by the ACLU many were surprised, but as the civil liberties group stated, their client is the Bill of Rights, not an individual. Mr. Limbaugh gratefully

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



accepted the group's involvement in spite of previous and post Limbaugh actions and derogatory remarks against the ACLU.

The group was there for Mr. Limbaugh as well as anyone else. Mr. Limbaugh could use the ACLU because as O'Reilly stated about watching Sean Penn movies, "it is his right".

Well, I think it is time for me to exercise my right and turn off Limbaugh and O'Reilly...I feel better already.

It's all about greed and envy

My dad always said the downfall of this country would be greed and we are certainly witnessing plenty of that now. The first to come to mind is AIG, CEO bonuses and of course, Madoff, but it goes far beyond that. These are only symptomatic of a far greater problem. It is the nationwide epidemic of greed and envy.

I have to laugh when I hear someone proclaim their great patriotism and at the same time wish our president to fail, or a congress not willing, from either side, to give and take.

It is the parent unwilling to see their

child sit on the bench, the young person needing a top of the line shoe or the woman providing alcohol for a teen party. These are as much greed factors as the AIG bonuses.

One could say it doesn't affect millions, either in people or dollars, but it is at the bottom of the pyramid. What was Madoff like as a child? Was he the sweet youngster or the bully, you choose.

It is easy to forget as community members, parents, grandparents we are forming the active citizens of tomorrow. What we do reflects who they will become. If a parent insists on making their child the center of the universe, believe me that action will come to haunt us all. The child of today who believes they are entitled will be the adult of tomorrow fleecing his community.

It is far easier to let a child dominate the picture. I have always said the only difference between a two year old and a sixteen year old is you can understand them when they talk back. It is never easy to be the 'heavy', but children are born needy and somewhat greedy. God gave them parents to fulfill their needs. Parents who wish to be their child's best friend miss out on the greatest adventure of life...parenting. The wonderful payoff to being a parent to a child is when they become adults they look to you both as a parent and a friend and you look to them in awe.

(mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net; blog marykaywoodyard.com)

From joy to sorrow in just a few weeks

We suffered a loss on Sunday. It was just a little loss, such a little thing, but we will miss it and mourn for what might have been. Youngest daughter Lindsay called about a month ago with the news that she was expecting. This was the first child for her and Bradley, the first grandchild on either side and my mother's first great-grandbaby.

We immediately called our brothers and sisters and told all our co-workers the good news. Steve was on Cloud 9. Then we found out we weren't supposed to tell anyone before she saw the doctor.

Well, darn it kid, you should have told us that before we blabbed it all over Kansas, Colorado and California.

Never mind that, though. The doctor confirmed the home pregnancy test's verdict. Our little Doodle Bug was six weeks along. She got a sonogram and e-mailed it to us. She wrote her grandmother with the good news and enclosed a copy of the sonogram, noting that the baby was just a peanut right now.

Mom hung the photo in her room next

Open Season Cynthia Haynes



We said all the usual things to both her and to each other.

"She's young, just 30."

"She didn't have any trouble getting pregnant the first time. She'll have other chances."

"The doctor said she'd be OK."

"In a few months, it won't hurt so much."

All true, but somehow it doesn't help right now. Right now we all have to grieve a little for what might have been.

After college biology, when I learned everything that can go wrong between conception and birth, I had wondered how any of us ever makes it. But then I had no trouble getting pregnant and produced three wonderful, healthy children. The biology lessons faded from my mind.

They came back Sunday afternoon. Intellectually, I know some problem arose and this child just couldn't make it. But, that really doesn't help much.

All I can do is say a little prayer, asking my dad and Steve's mom and dad to be on the lookout up there for a little soul, because it's such a tiny thing and heaven is so big.

To... John and Hazel Stutterheim, on your 70th wedding anniversary. (by mail)

To... Stacie Minson, on the honor accorded as noted in The Telegram. (by mail, from classmates)

To... Cathy Brannan and everyone who cut out and saved the "Express Bucks" for us in the Salina Journal contest. You helped us earn 2nd place. The winning school donated their prize to the tornado damaged Chapman schools. (Brought in, Ms. Smith's third grade)

(To render a salute, please e-mail 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)

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654

Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002

Incorporating the Norton County Champion
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor

Office hours:

8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Phone: (785) 877-3361

Fax: (785) 877-3732

E-mail:

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Tom Dreiling..... editor and publisher

Dana Paxton..... advertising director

Dick Boyd..... Blue Jays sports

Brandy Leroux..... reporter

Sherry Hickman..... bookkeeping/circulation

Vicki Henderson..... computer production

