

In my case, good old mail delivery a winner

I mailed, the old fashioned way, my stuff (I just love that word 'stuff') to Topeka last week and if I had everything figured correctly, I'll get a refund. I was in no hurry to file my tax forms because I was going to send them electronically. After all haven't we been encouraged to file that way to get a much quicker refund? Well, forget the much quicker.

I tried, I really did, but my computer would let me go only so far because the web site would caution that some forms I would need are not available. Duh?! My federal forms, which will also result in a refund, again if I figured things correctly, were also sent the snail mail way. No luck with the state, so I didn't try it for the federal.

They say people with refunds file early, those who have to shell out file much later. Then there are those like me who couldn't get the web site to cooperate and were forced to slap a 42-cent stamp on the envelope containing the forms.

Anyway, whenever the refunds arrive, that'll stimulate me.

I had occasion to be in a place last week where lottery scratch-off tickets are sold. After I paid for my purchase, I asked the clerk to give me 8 assorted tickets @ \$1 each (I seldom buy those things), so when I got home I put a penny to work scratching the tickets.

The total:
1 Ticket showing three FREES — worth \$1
1 Ticket showing three FREES — worth \$1
1 Ticket containing five amounts that added up to more than \$1 — prize amount \$1
1 Ticket containing five amounts that added up to more than \$1 — prize amount \$2
1 Ticket telling me that if I got 3 like prize amounts, I win that prize amount. The ticket contained three \$50s — worth \$50
Total: \$55!
I now call that place my "stimulus stop."

He is 92, and she is 89, living in Florida. They are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll, hand in hand, to discuss the wedding, and on the way they pass a drugstore. He suggests they go in.

He addresses the man behind the counter:
"Are you the owner?"
The pharmacist replies "Yes."
The old gent says, "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"

Pharmacist: "Of course we do."
"How about medicine for circulation?"
Pharmacist: "All kinds."
"Medicine for rheumatism?"
Pharmacist: "Definitely."
"How about suppositories?"
Pharmacist: "You bet!"
"Medicine for memory problems, arthritis, and Alzheimer's?"
Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety. The works."
"What about vitamins, sleeping pills, Geritol, antidotes for Parkinson's

Pharmacist: "Sure."
The old man said, "Good. We'd like to use your store as our Bridal Registry."

disease?"

Pharmacist: "Absolutely."
"Everything for heartburn and indigestion?"

Pharmacist: "We sure do."
"You sell wheelchairs and walkers and canes?"

Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes."
"Adult diapers?"

Pharmacist: "Sure."
The old man said, "Good. We'd like to use your store as our Bridal Registry."

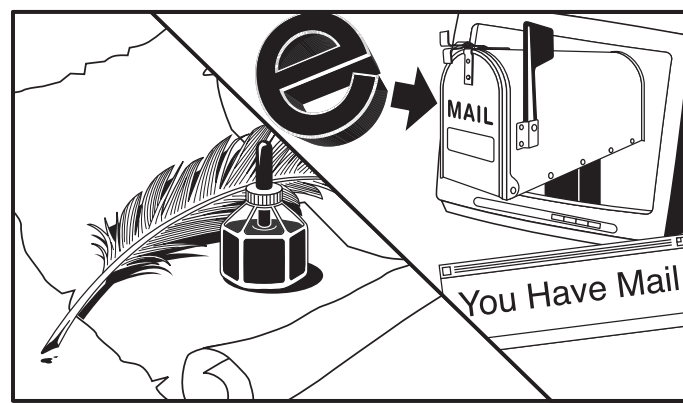
Well, the Great American Circus of Stars is coming to town. Tuesday, National Guard Armory, 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. performances. Should be fun and suspense filled. You never get too old to enjoy the circus. Detailed information can be found in an advertisement elsewhere in today's paper. Enjoy!

If I told you Rob Wasinger was in the office Wednesday, you'd probably say, "Who?" Rob is an energetic young man who hopes to replace Jerry Moran as Representative of the First Congressional District. He is a Republican and was making his way around the state when he showed up in my office, the first candidate for Jerry's House seat to make an introduction. He spent the past 12 years working for Sen. Sam Brownback, but moved back to his roots to embark on what could be a really wild ride. With Congressman Moran himself getting ready to make a run for the United States Senate in the 2010 election, the wannabe congressman roster is expected to be large. Rep. Moran is running for the seat being vacated by Sen. Brownback who decided against a re-election bid. Rob not only served Sen. Brownback, but also Gov. Bill Graves and Rep. Moran when Jerry was Kansas State Senate Majority Leader. Candidates — start your engines!

The little girl was so excited and anxious to begin her Sunday school assignment. So, her first question was directed to her daddy. "How did the human race appear?" she asked. He said, "God made Adam and Eve; they had children; and so was all mankind made." She then asked her mother the same question. She said, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved." Confused, the little girl returned to her father and said, "Dad, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Mom said they developed from monkeys?" Her father explained it this way, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family, and your mother told you about hers."

Have a good evening! And as you embark on your weekly journey to the church of your choice.....(I'll let you finish it out.)

Let's Chat Tom Dreiling



Cheerleading decision very difficult

Supt. Greg Mann

At the April 13 USD 211 BOE (Board of Education) meeting, a very difficult decision was made by the board of education. It was decided to suspend cheerleading at NCHS for the 2009-10 school year. This was a decision that was not easily reached.

Cheerleading has traditionally been a very strong activity at NCHS and a point of pride. While there have been isolated years when interest waned, the past three years have seen a dramatic and continued downturn in interest. The NCHS cheer squad has for 25+ years consisted of twelve members and has been highly selective. Only 13 students tried out for the 2007-08 squad and 12 tried out for the 2008-09 squad. As a result, our squad has not been at "full strength" since the beginning of the 2006-07 school year. This year the squad started the year with ten members and finished the winter sports season with four.

At the March BOE meeting, discussion was held on whether or not to continue

cheerleading, not only due to the decline in interest, but also as the result of other issues that had arisen over the past two to three years. At that meeting, the BOE decided that student interest in cheerleading was to be ascertained before determining whether or not a cheerleading squad for 2009-10 should be organized. This fact was reported in The Telegram and also on our local radio.

A longer than normal sign-up period of two weeks was held in March to determine the number of students who wished to try out for the 2009-10 squad. By the end of the two weeks a total of ten students had signed up; which is fewer even than had signed up for the tryouts for the 2007-08 or 2008-09 squads.

After further discussion and consideration, the BOE reluctantly made the decision to put cheerleading "on hold" for the coming school year. I wish to

emphasize it was not just the lack of interest that has led to cheerleading being suspended, but rather, the lack of interest being symptoms of the problems that have been present the past few years.

We ALL understand that it will be strange to not see cheerleaders on the track at next fall's Friday night football games and we certainly hope this suspension is for one year only. More importantly it is our sincere hope that this action will be the catalyst that will have the effect of generating a positive desire and interest in cheerleading once again at NCHS.

In closing, the USD 211 BOE, Mr. Perez, NCHS Principal, and I would like to GIVE A THUMB UP to those students and sponsors who over the past three years did their best, gave of themselves and HUGE amounts of their time to positively represent our school and community; they know who they are and their efforts have been sincerely appreciated.

Supt. Greg Mann, USD 211

Decision shatters dreams of 10 girls

Kandra Boteler

I am a concerned resident and parent of Norton County. I have two daughters who go to Norton and I am proud to say that the Norton school has such wonderful school spirit. But after the school board decision to suspend the 2009-2010 cheerleading program, I am so disappointed.

It seems there was a quotation from a member stating, "There is no educational value from cheerleading." Is there educational value from the other sports? I believe that you can get scholarships through cheerleading, just like any other sports, so what is the difference between cheerleading, football, basketball, volleyball, track, golf and tennis?

I had been a cheerleader (not in Norton), my youngest daughter has been a cheerleader her seventh and eighth grade years, and anybody else that had been or was a cheerleader knows that it is one of the hardest sports there is, if you were serious about it.

As a cheerleader, you are responsible for keeping the crowd motivated in a

positive way, show school spirit, be a role model and leader for your school/community, and support your school teams in EVERYTHING they do.

Yes, there was drama last year, but name one sport that doesn't have drama in it, and the girls who got caught up in it, are no longer participating in cheerleading, so why are we taking it from girls who want to show that they have what it takes to have a good squad and make up for the last couple of years. To be a good cheer squad, you don't need 12 girls, but somehow that became the minimum requirement. If you have 6-8 girls who want to be out there and love cheering and supporting the team, then that is all you need.

My daughter loves cheerleading and did everything to get herself prepared for high school cheerleading, by being a good student, making good grades, being a cheerleader in junior high and participat-

ing in gymnastics and tumbling, but now the one thing she was looking forward to in the one thing in going to high school was taken away from her and the other girls who were excited about trying out.

I just wanted to express my opinion on the decision that was made, in which I did and hopefully without offending anybody while doing so. I believe and so do others that we are going to have a hard time going to the Norton Blue Jays' sport functions and not having the cheerleaders there to support the team and show school spirit, especially with the size of our school district.

I want to show appreciation to the two board members who voted against the suspension. I and other residents of Norton (who can't see not having cheerleaders to cheer us on), want to thank you both for trying to keep the dream going for the 10 girls who wanted to try out for the 2009-2010 school year.

Kandra Boteler
Norton

Overhaul of federal tax code necessary

Rep. Jerry Moran

Struggle to find receipts, understand tax forms and get to the post office on time. Tax season always stirs a memorable quote, "A fine is a tax for doing something wrong. A tax is a fine for doing something right." An overhaul of our federal tax code is necessary.

Congress is currently studying numerous tax reform proposals, including one called the Fair Tax. This legislation would replace taxes on what you earn with taxes on what you buy. All corporate and individual income taxes, payroll taxes, self-employment taxes, capital gains taxes, estate taxes and gift taxes would be repealed. The Fair Tax would do away with the Internal Revenue Service, enable workers to keep their entire paychecks, and bring transparency and accountability to tax policy. Reform is needed to address the complexities of our broken tax process.

As taxpayers, we deal with a tax system that is complex, confusing and burden-

some. It impedes our nation's economic growth and rewards those who are able to manipulate it to their goals. It punishes productivity — if you make more, you are taxed more. Americans deserve better. The Fair Tax Act is the right answer to simplify the process. The IRS estimated that individual taxpayers and businesses spend 7.6 billion hours each year filing their taxes. In perspective, that's 3.8 million employees working full time for an entire year. We desperately need a common-sense tax system that is simple and growth-oriented. However, instead of tax simplification and tax relief, Americans this year will be facing the same broken tax system and a budget proposal that increases their taxes to pay for more spending.

During my time in Congress, I have been a strong advocate of lower and fairer

taxes. The Fair Tax is a simple and honest tax. In this time, where our nation's debt is soaring, a transparent process that is applied fairly across the board to businesses and families may be a solution for our economy.

Americans are struggling and we need to get the country moving. The Fair Tax could encourage an environment to incentivize savings and stimulate the economy by encouraging new investment. Reducing the burden on America's taxpayers is a priority. An overhaul of our federal tax code is needed to address the complexities of our current tax process. Kansans are working hard every day to get by during these difficult economic times. We need to reform the tax process and implement the Fair Tax so that individuals, families and businesses have the resources they need to prosper.

Rep. Jerry Moran
First District

To... Luke Keilig, for winning the state championship in 10 & Under for 120 # at the Kid's Wrestling Tournament in Topeka. (e-mail)

To... Erma Hackney, on your 95th birthday! (e-mail)

To... everyone involved in the Easter Egg and Scavenger Hunt. A really fun time and the kids all enjoyed it. (e-mail)

To... the 441 people who took time from their schedules to vote in last week's election. Thumbs Down to those who didn't. (called in)

To... all of our daycare providers, thanks for all you do, and good luck with your "Week of the Child" observance April 19-25. (called in)

(To render a salute, simply e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, call 877-6908 or 877-3361, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your 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

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