

## THE NORTON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2009 PAGE 4

## Recovery slowed by unemployment taxes

Washington reporter noticed this week that rising unemployment taxes, needed to pay for ever-growing unemployment rolls, might be slowing the Leconomic recovery by keeping employers from hiring more workers.

"Some employers say the extra costs make them less likely to hire," the Associated Press reported. "That could be worrisome ... because small businesses create about 60 percent of new jobs."

Demand has drained the jobless funds of many states, the story says, and nearly half have had to borrow from the federal government.

Most states reset unemployment insurance rates at the end of the year, based on claims, and most apparently plan to raise taxes to pay the bills. The shortfall is estimated at something like \$42 billion.

Tough choice: recovery and more jobs, or jobless pay and higher taxes. And that ain't the half of it.

Unemployment is in double digits for the first time in 25 years, and unemployment among teens topped 25 percent this summer. For black teens, the rate was 37.5 percent.

Maybe the huge increases in the federal minimum wages authored by the Democrats in Congress has something to do with it. Employers can't afford to pay teens with little or no experience big bucks.

When the minimum wage goes up, what do they do?

Hire fewer, more experienced people. And teens, especially minority teens, get

Of course, the powerful unions pushing for a higher base care mostly about their members, not the marginal job-seekers, mostly kids, who get minimum-wage

And then there's the \$1 trillion Congress wants to spend on health care. It sounds like a great idea to improve coverage for everyone and bring everyone into the tent, but someone has to pay that bill.

Business owners suspect, in the end, it won't be the rich who get soaked, but

Again, the answer is to keep hiring to a minimum and reduce exposure to new or increased taxes. No one is going to create a job just to see costs soar.

Week after week, economists complain that even with the recovery underway, the country just isn't creating new jobs. You see stories about the "jobless recovery" and predictions that double-digit unemployment will linger for years. Federal Reserve Chief Ben Bernanke said as much Monday.

But Congress and the Administration, when not busy rewriting the health-care bill, are stimulating the economy.

Why isn't it working?

Could it be that we've simply made hiring too expensive, and too risky, for the average company? Certainly for small business, where most jobs grow.

Our prediction, the hard-line Democrats running Congress want things their way and don't much care. If you have a job, hang onto it.

— Steve Haynes



To....Norton Community High School Football team and coaches for a job well done! (e-mailed)

To....Jana Keiswetter, Patty Gall, Jennifer McKenna, Tami Broeckelmen and all the other football moms for their time making all the supporting posters for the football games this year. Great job! (e-mailed)

### Your political connection

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**★ U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

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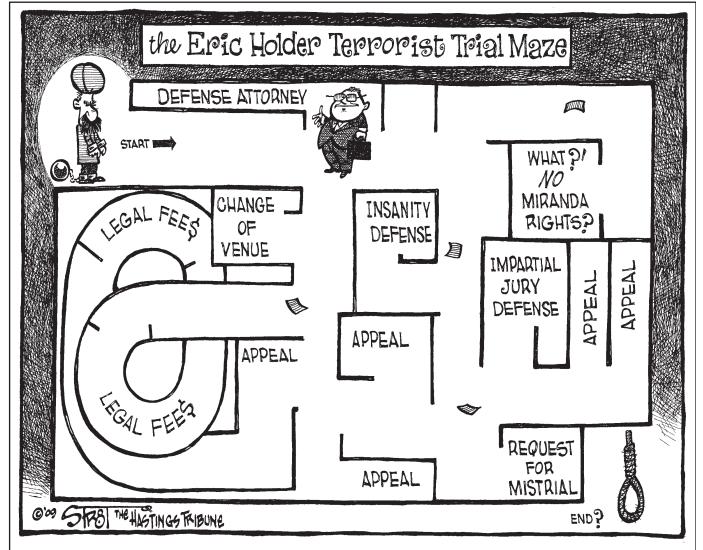
**★ U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

**★ U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202)

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★ State Rep. John Faber, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan.

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### Improving yourself

Then I had my surgery a friend gave me some books to read while I recuperated. The titles included "The Big Rich" (about the richest of the Texas Oilmen), "Under the Banner of Heaven" (a very unflattering story of Mormons or drawing parallels to most any religion) and "Carry Me Home" (the story of the Civil Rights movement in Alabama.)

Thinking I should use my down time to improve myself I took "Carry Me Home" to the hospital. In my narcotic stupor I managed to read maybe two pages a paragraph or so at a time. You'd think that might be interesting but ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

I came home and started on the other stuff. "Under the Banner of Heaven" was an easy read and I learned a lot.

"The Big Rich" was extremely entertaining. It's hard to figure how those guys could be so smart and dumb at the same time. I think I was supposed to be outraged at their behavior but I was mostly amused. In the end with all their scheming they mostly ended up hurting themselves. It's hard to take it all seri-

My sister-in-law gave me "Sod and Stubble" by John Ise. It is a story of early pioneers in Osborne County. It was a fictionalized "true" story. It sort of confused me because while they used pictures of real people and provided the exact locations of where the events took place, when you tried to make the stories 'fit" reality it didn't always work.

In the preface it was noted that Ise had in some ways "prettied" things up. It even made reference to Mari Sandoz' book "Old Jules" noting that the harshanyone really worry about that anymore?

heard a new term this week...atheis-

And so actor, Kirk Cameron, has done

just that. He helped write a new intro-

duction in the 1920's book and now is

passing it out on college campuses. If

you don't recognize this star you're not

alone neither did many of the students to

which he was trying to pass off the 'free'

books, either that or they were too smart

I have never understood why some

people believe if you follow the idea of

Comfort, believe the downfall of religion

in America can be directly attributed to

to fall for the propaganda.

**Back** Home Nancy Hagman



Ise wanted his book to be a primer for school children that they could develop an appreciation of what the first settlers experienced.

I have read other histories of the days of the first non native populations in Kansas. To my mind "Pioneer Women" by Joanna Stratton far surpasses "Sod and Stubble". It is a collection of letters written by those women. Certainly there were things they did not speak of but what they do say is true, not filtered or sanitized, because it is in their own voices!

However "Sod and Stubble" is captivating in its own way. I am particularly intrigued because there was a pamphlet showing a driving tour you can take to see the places discussed in the book. This is right west of Downs, north of Highway 24 and 9. We drive that road often and find myself looking over the fields and telling myself "Do that: SOON!"

Finally I decided to once again tackle "Carry Me Home". I'm about halfway though or maybe more (there are over 100 pages of references at the end of the 1000 or so pages so I'm hoping I'm closer than it might outwardly seem!)

It's disappointing to find this story so, well, disappointing! It's got everything: crime, sex, murder, betrayal. The author Diane McWhorter's family is involved in parts of the action. Those parts do peak my interest. I think she tries too hard the --well, it's pretty much what they teach

A new term this week

in composition 101! WRITE WHAT YOU KNOW!

Atad off subject but I'm no longer worrying about Alzheimer's as someone told me short term memory is the first to go. So since I mostly remember last Tuesday but Idon't remember much of anything about the Civil Rights movement I'm thinking I'm okay for the moment.

The names are familiar, George Wallace, Martin Luther King, the Kennedys, J Edgar Hoover but the rest: well maybe I'm too young. It felt great to say that by the way!

So why do I continue to try to slug my way through this book. Just what am I trying to prove?

I visited my friend with the extensive library of non fiction books recently. I returned everything but "Carry Me Home" and picked up "If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name" by Heather Lende. The sub-title is "News from Small Town Alaska," but it could be small town Kansas or anywhere. Charming title, charming book.

Lende, among other things, writes obituaries for a small newspaper. She says her boss "believes what they told him in journalism school----that all good reporters comfort the afflicted and afflict the comforted." She goes on to say, "I'm not sure that is the best approach when it comes to obituaries."

Perhaps having my comfort afflicted has something to do with my determination to get through "Carry Me Home." While I appreciate my friend's thoughtful selection of reading material for my convalescence I would not recommend it for that application. If you are looking for something to do on the long winter evenings or having trouble sleeping however it would be cheaper and way less addictive than prescription medicine!

### Topeka, Kan. 66612. ness of Old Jules would perhaps make it (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224rest of the time to get every single fact in inappropriate for younger readers. Does (785) 296-7399 but when she writes what she knows----

lished book.

# THE NORTON

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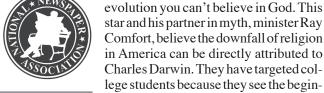
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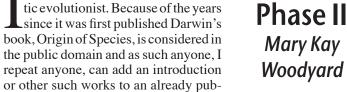
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Woodyard ning of this downfall as having its roots on campus. In a video by Cameron he states 61 percent of college professors are

The quote was, "...young people are entering college with a belief in God and exiting with that faith being stripped and shredded. What we want to do is have students make an informed, educated decision before they chuck their faith."

agnostic or atheist and as such are leading

students down an atheistic path.

I would challenge this thinking. They enter with religion, not with faith and unfortunately the two are not interchangeable. One pastor helping in this project, said he didn't believe in evolu-

tion but rather in a personal relationship with God. I fail to see how believing in evolution limits my belief in God. To me His master plan of an evolving being promotes my belief that I too am a work in progress and that I am not limited in how my relationship with God can grow.

Colleges are charged with growing students in knowledge and the student brings the tools of their short lifetime to discern their beliefs. Freedom of speech allows Cameron and his cohorts to distribute this "information" and I applaud our Bill of Rights for that. Faith does not have to be an either/or situation and evolution is no exception.

My husband says, "As a scientist I don't tell God what to do; I look to see what He did and how He did it." As Christians prepare for the season of Advent, we look expectantly to the coming of the Christ child and the message that imparts...a baby's arrival, an evolving of faith and seasons of learning.

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