

Respect our deadlines, we are here to serve you

As we all know *The Norton Telegram* is the only newspaper in Norton. This carries a lot of responsibility for our small staff of four full time employees and two part time employees. Every day seems to bring new issues as our staff consistently finds themselves overworked. Not only do we have to balance our ad, circulation and news departments, but we also have to respond to what the public expects, and demands, from us.

Our ad deadlines differ depending on what day you want your ad to run. Deadlines for display ads and classified line ads are Thursday at noon for the Monday Extra, Friday at noon for the Tuesday paper and Wednesday at noon for the Friday paper.

The newsroom works a little bit differently. News is gathered through press releases, attending meetings, meeting minutes, people bringing articles in, law enforcement, and our staff. Every time we hear a news tip, it has to be checked against the rumor mill for accuracy. Our schedule is a delicate balance between sifting through press releases and information brought to us and going out to cover meetings and events.

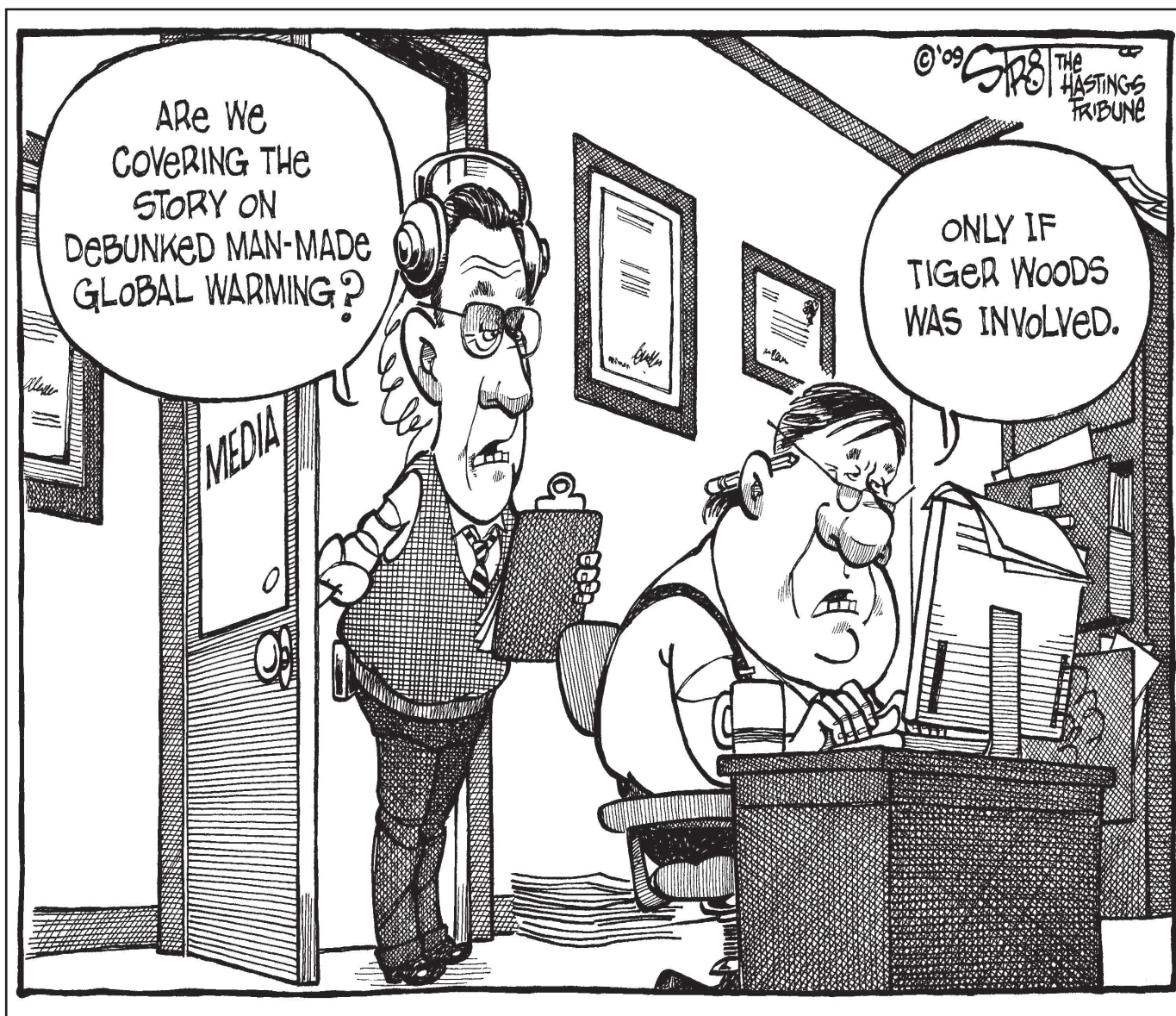
Articles have to be evaluated, for quality as well as accuracy, before they can be printed. The turnaround is faster for things emailed in, but when articles are hand delivered it takes time to process them.

It can take days for an article to be published after it is processed. This is not only dependent on timeliness but also on available space. The ad setup is different for every paper, and it is left up to the newsroom to fill the rest of the space which changes issue to issue.

There may be too much copy on sports for Tuesday meaning some copy would have to be held for Friday. Content is assigned to certain pages. A column would not run on the sports page, and an article about a school board meeting would not run on the society page.

As a newspaper, we are here to serve our community. We thrive on people submitting their content to us, and we will try to accommodate each submission depending on processing time as well as space.

—Erica Bradley



Minimum wage increases harmful

This is in response to Steve Haynes' editorial on Nov. 27. I certainly agree that increases in the federal minimum wage adopted by the Democratic Congress has been harmful. Governments setting wages in prosperous times is poor policy, but having inflexible wages in a down economy is really harmful.

Poor policy at the federal level is also bad at the state level. The Republican Legislature in Kansas also raised the minimum wage. Many small businesses and farmers in our area have been exempt from the federal law but are now hit with a huge increase from \$2.65 to \$7.25 an hour. This makes it a lot harder to hire young people or to give jobs to others in these hard times.



So my point is, give a balanced report. Both parties have supported policies that have made it harder for people to get jobs.

Bob Strevey

City comments on errors in information

I am writing this letter in response to the "Norton Water is still safe" article that was published in the Norton Telegram on Friday, November 20, 2009. There are several statements made by the author that are incorrect. The first error is the statement that the city was recently cited by KDHE for by products of Triamylamine in the drinking water. The City of Norton was NOT cited for this. Triamylamine is used as an intermediate in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, quaternary ammonium compounds, agrochemicals, surfactants, lubricant additives, corrosion inhibitors, vulcanization accelerators and dyes.

The violation notice that the city did receive from KDHE was for exceeding the acceptable level for a running average of Trihalomethanes.

The city has sent out letters on this same type of violation numerous times in the past 2 years. The violation is due in part to the current regulations and standards which are determined and enforced by KDHE. The City of Norton is currently in the final stage of a 3 year renovation process to our water treatment plant, to meet and exceed the regulations required by KDHE. The project should



be completed in 2010.

The article also refers to two other violations, the water clarifier being down, and the wells are not all up and running. First of all, neither one of these items is a violation, rather they are part of a maintenance schedule and planned activity as part of the renovation of the treatment plant. The water treatment plant uses two clarifiers as part of the daily operation of the plant. Each clarifier can treat one million gallons of water per day, (2 million gallons per day combined), for our customers. The average gallons of water used per day for this time of year is 300,000 gallons, well below the one

million gallons that a single clarifier can produce.

The wells referred to in this article are part of the new treatment process. 5 new wells are being drilled to replace the inefficient and outdated wells that we are currently using, that have been in use for over 40 years. Once the new wells are drilled, tested and connected to the influent system, the old wells will be taken out of service and capped. The installation of the new wells is being done to provide the city with a better quality of water, as well as a more efficient well field to operate. They will also be more secure from any acts of vandalism or terroristic type of activity.

I appreciate your efforts in trying to keep the public aware of the activity within our great city, and I understand that some of the topics are very involved and can easily be misconstrued. However, I feel that information that relates to the water that the city provides for our customers to consume, needs to be correct and accurate.

Sincerely
Rob Lawson
City Administrator



To....Jon Stanton at the Andbe Home for all the hard work you do. (Called in)

Send Thumbs Up to:
• ebradley@nwkansas.com
• nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
• 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654
• 877-3361 or 877-6908
• (fax) 877-3732
• drop by the office, 215 S. Kansas Ave.

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



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

Dana Paxton.....general manager
advertising director
Dick Boyd.....Blue Jay sports
Erica Bradley.....managing editor
Harriett Gill.....society editor
Sherry Hickman.....bookkeeping/circulation
Vicki Henderson.....computer production

The new world order

My mother lived to be 100. Her death in December of 2004, exactly 20 years to the day from my father's death, still stings. I know I should have been expecting it but she was one of those larger than life people one felt would live forever. One thing I have come to admire about my mother was her ability to accept the changing world around her.

As I struggle to understand the new "world order," actually my order, I realize what an amazing accomplishment it is to see the changes and not become cynical or skeptical.

I was accused recently of not being up-to-date on how life is lived and I'm sure there is an element of truth to that. I am trying to know how my mother would accept some of the changes and put myself in her shoes. What would she have said, or done or expected? I draw a blank. It is hard to look on the "new way" and replace it with the changes she

Phase II
Mary Kay
Woodyard



saw. Which changes are simply a matter of nature, which ones are an evolved trait and which are desired actions? My mother truly believed that homosexuality was a born trait.

She also believed young people dying before they truly understood what they were fighting for was unjust and that some things come too easily for our society.

When I was growing up my father spent countless hours with me as I followed him around the farm. My favorite pastime was going rabbit hunting any chance we had. We coupled it with check-

ing the cattle, but in my mind I was the sole purpose for the evening trip. During those encounters he shared many of life's mysteries and questions. I realize now he struggled with the same problems with adaptation I am encountering. Adjusting to the changing world is a condition shared by any who have the privilege of growing old.

Some people become increasingly bitter as they age, others refuse to think or acknowledge the changes and still others embrace the new order as part of life's mysteries and God's plan.

I desperately want to fall into the last group, but I am beginning to realize it takes a lot of work. Perhaps the greatest lesson my mother learned was this, protect your own peace of mind, accept your own limitations and as was prescribed to my mother by 'Dr. Mary' of Phillipsburg, "put your feet up and say to hell with it all." Now that part I think I can do.

Your political connection

★ **Governor Mark Parkinson**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232
★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514
★ **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) 225-5124
★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399
★ **State Rep. John Faber**, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500