

Residents must be happy with their council

Major issues have come up in the last year, and it would seem natural that voters would express their frustration at the polls. However, turnout was low and each incumbent was voted back into office.

The city council is made up of six members; three from each ward. Each council member is assigned to various city committees, including public works, safety, utility, finance, personnel and parks. These committees are typically where discussion is held regarding issues a resident has or any city business that needs to be discussed.

The council is voted in by voters, making them employees of their constituents. Any decisions made affect every city resident, whether it be utility increases, the purchase of new equipment, a hiring freeze or curb and gutter repair. They are responsible for running the city.

Residents have become increasingly frustrated in the past year, but on Tuesday several people said they wouldn't vote because it didn't affect them. Apparently, a lot of people felt the same way.

In Ward I only 9 percent of residents voted, in Ward II 6 percent voted and in Ward III 14 percent cast their vote.

With so few voters turning out, we have to wonder what that says about our city. It has to mean one of two things: either residents are overwhelmingly happy with the way the city is being run or people didn't feel like going to the Legion to cast their vote.

Either way, it's good to know so many people support what their elected officials are doing.

—Erica Bradley



Forgiving oneself

I wrote about forgiveness last time. After thinking about it, I realized there is another aspect to forgiveness, and that is forgiving oneself. I believe many people have more difficulty with forgiving themselves than they do other people.

I have heard people say, "I just can't forgive myself for doing that." Often, if we query that individual about the action, we may think it is minor. As long as people choose not to forgive themselves, they continue to beat up on themselves with this action. And as long as they continue to beat up on themselves, they feel bad. It may even reach the point of hating oneself.

There is little or nothing about life that is good. There is a sense of hopelessness, and life is without joy.

There are some things we must do in order to forgive ourselves. If we have hurt another, we must go to that individual and say we are genuinely sorry. Our ability to forgive ourselves does not depend on another's forgiveness of us; it depends on seeking the other's forgiveness. If we did something wrong, we must—insofar as it is possible—right that wrong. I remember reading once about a man who sent money anonymously to the IRS for unpaid taxes and interest for the years he had cheated on his taxes. That is one way to make amends for a wrong.

Each person will have to decide for

Acceptance

Rita Speer



him/herself what an appropriate action is when it comes to righting a wrong that has been committed. I have no right to tell another what is the best course of action when he/she is trying to make reparation. Sometimes a simple, "I am sorry I hurt you," is enough. Sometimes we feel a need to compensate another for a misdeed. Whatever is done to atone for the wrongdoing, it should be an action.

Depending on one's belief system, it is now time to ask forgiveness of God. And then it is time to forgive oneself and let go of it. I understood how important these two steps are when I heard someone say she knew God had forgiven her but she just couldn't forgive herself. Another person pointed out she was setting herself up as better than God. If she believed in God's forgiveness, she had to forgive herself and quit beating up on herself.

We may not forget what happened, but by forgiving ourselves—and sometimes this takes several attempts—we can let go of the hopelessness and find joy in our lives again.

Years ago in Oregon a neighbor, a pro-choice activist, said to me, "They should just shoot those pro-lifers who are picketing."

I turned to her in shock and said, "You can't be serious."

It is the extremes of any belief which are the threats to freedom. Just as Jack Cassell, the doctor in Florida posted a sign saying if you voted for Obama you could find treatment elsewhere.

He believes the health care bill wants you to "die sooner," so he decided to help it along. Or the doctors in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area who took out a full page ad announcing they would no longer take Medicare.

The bill had not even passed at that point and yet they felt obliged to make a political statement. Neither of these examples was about medicine but rather politics and greed and controlling through fear.

The recent outbreak of threats aimed at both sides in Congress is reflective of the attitudes of small groups of people, the so called vocal minority. Militia

Extremes threaten freedom

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



groups are a small number of our overall population but they commandeer a great deal of attention because of the threat of violence. Timothy McVeigh was not a 'strong person' but he knew how to make a bomb and he did.

On the whole our citizens are fairly balanced and reasonable, but it only takes a few to incite anger and violence. When a pro-life or pro-choice individual states all those who don't agree should be shot, someone who is the least bit unbalanced sees that as the way to gain notoriety.

Does news coverage of these threats increase the chance of violence? Perhaps. The bottom line is we have to agree to disagree and work within that framework.

My friend in Texas and I agree on very

little, except the real basics...the love of family, the blessing of good health and good friends. We agree on the journey, just not the path.

I appreciate her work at the pro life center and she appreciates (I think) my writings. Each of us supports our own causes and the other tries to listen and understand.

Do we ever change each other's mind? Probably not but we are richer because of the discourse.

Some members of Congress do much the same. They argue vehemently when in session, but outside those hallowed halls they meet for coffee, exchange stories of family and constituents and admire each other's dedication to the country. Some say this is the sign of a hypocrite, I say it is the reach for compromise.

Of course there are those who are on the fringes of their parties and they are the ones we must contain, we must guard against and we must fear. It is our responsibility to hold them accountable for their words. Even vague threats have no place in our conversations.

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
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Big time finance

Back Home

Nancy Hagman



Big time finance is a little beyond me. But I get a kick out of watching "Mad Money" and the "Kudlow Report." Sometimes I glean little pearls of investment advice from print or the internet also. You don't necessarily have to venture onto Wall Street.

Recently I read: When picking stocks, always put something into your portfolio you like: a product or service you buy or use all the time.

The author of the article had been asked if a certain telephone company was a good investment. He asked the investor if they liked the product. No---was the answer. However the stock was going down; making it seem like a bargain. Research on the company indicated sales had also been declining for months. No one was buying the product so it was easy to predict the downward stock trend was not going to reverse, soon if ever.

The expert asked the investor why he did not like the product. The answer: the tech support was terrible! The investor complained about the electronic call service. He wanted to talk to someone! In my world if electronic call service was a criteria for weeding out stocks, there wouldn't be any left!

Everyone hates dealing with "Press 1 for English." And "please enter the last four numbers of your social security number followed by the number key." Or my favorite, "Main Menu....." followed by so many options you can't even decide which one applies! Then you realize it was probably the second one but you can't remember the number so you have to push 8 to listen to options again! PLEASE---let me talk to someone. There is a rumor if you immediately push zero you get an operator but that doesn't always work.

What really irritates me is after you

Good idea. Much, much later and after a call to the store where the appliances would be delivered from it was ascertained there was no way she would ever get the items as advertised.

Her father and I were saying, "aren't you glad you talked to someone so you know?"

She was very frustrated but maintained she'd rather just do business online!

I wonder at a world where we are willing to put every aspect of our lives out on "Face Book" but loathe actually having contact with other human beings.

Happily for the daughter's appliance search she remembered Store 1 would price match. She made an in person contact there as they were closing and ordered the appliances to be delivered to Lewisburg, Penn. at Store 2's price.

Technology is amazing and everyone is happy. Except maybe the helpful sales associate at Store 2 who failed to make a sale. Despite the wonderful service I'm not sure I'd buy stock in either store, because I don't know how they can make money.

But here is something I'm planning to do! Some experts are advising: do not give your money or assets away to your kids until you die. Although you may feel comfortable today, you may outlive your resources or some unforeseen crises may arise. You might then have to go to your children and ask for assistance, putting their financial well being into jeopardy.

Unless your kids are in serious need of your help, keep your money and take care of yourself. In the long run you will be doing the kids a favor!

I do hope the kids will be understanding about this! I'm booking a cruise for Christmas for us this year, no more cash in the stockings, kids! Hope you enjoy the postcards!