

## Bullying doesn't only happen to the young

Dear Editor,

There is a lot of talk these days about bullying in the schools. But, unfortunately that's not the only place it's happening. How many of you would be surprised to know that certain people at the Almena Senior Center are being bullied, even terrorized to the point that they don't want to be alone to fulfill their paid or volunteer services?



Definitions: bully - 1. To fill with terror, 2. To dominate or coerce by intimidation.

Definitions: terrorize - 1. To fill with terror, 2. To dominate or coerce by intimidation.

For some reason there are several people who seem to have issues with the cook and some others at the Senior Center. Once a trash dumpster was put close to the back door, and an aluminum food cart was left in front of the back door, a clear violation of a fire code. Because of these incidents the Sheriff has been made aware of the situation.

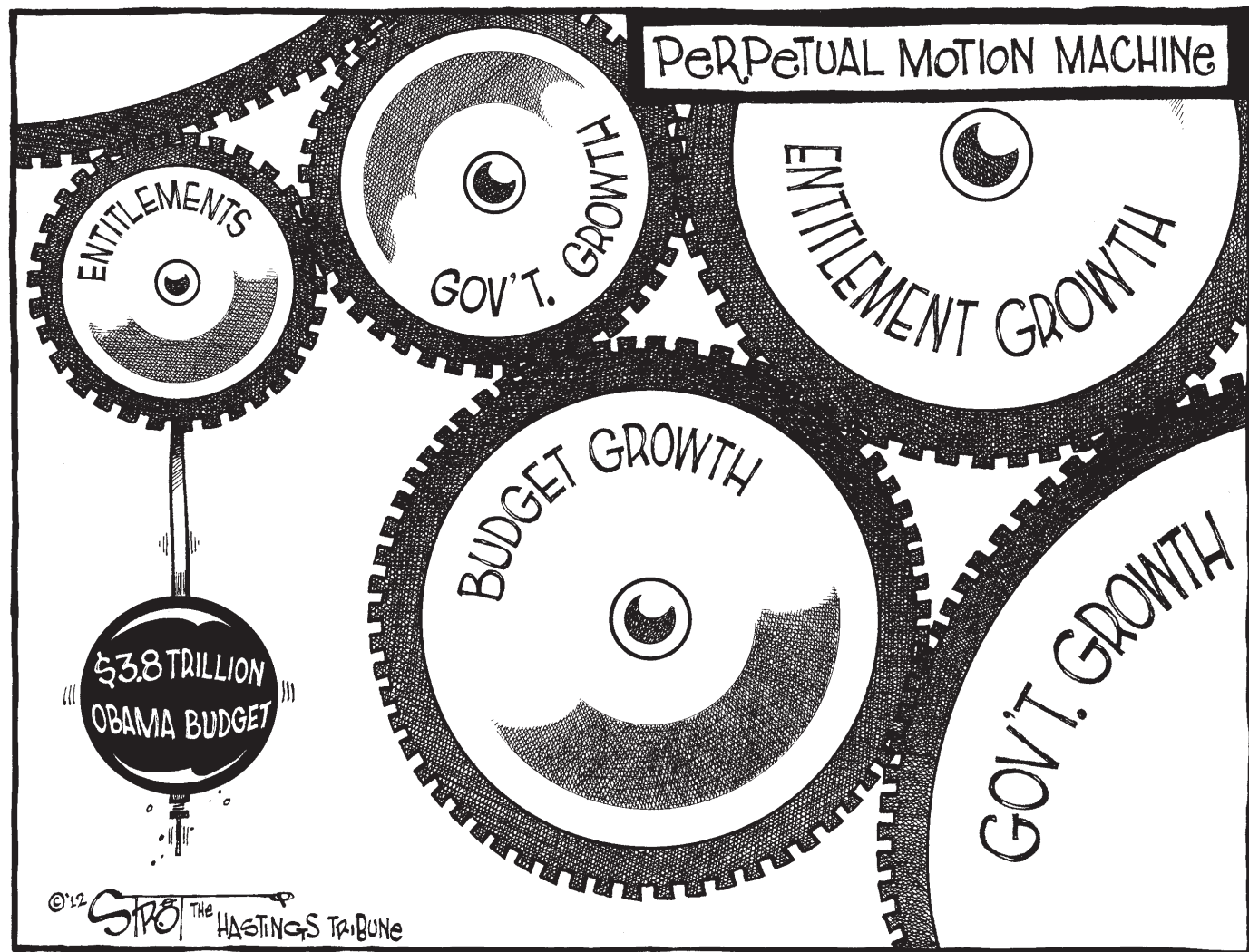
Surprise inventories are repeatedly being done at which time supply amounts could be tampered with and the shortage blamed on someone else. Floors are left unswept and dishes undone so the morning workers have to clean up messes before they start their regular chores. Some of these 'senior' bullies have actually told one of the employees that she will be fired when a new board is elected in March. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

What happens if the cook is fired. The people leading this crusade don't eat lunches at the Center. They can get in their cars and drive wherever they want. There are a lot of people who depend on a nutritious, hot meal once a day. This is a socialization many need. What will happen to the people who get their meals delivered? Will they be able to stay in their homes?

If there are people who are unhappy with the way the Senior Center is being run, protest in a logical, adult way. Don't destroy the services and social benefits that the Center provides. The minority shouldn't be allowed to ruin needed services for the majority.

Come on seniors. We're supposed to be the adults in this community. Quit the intimidating threats and infantile behavior and work to keep a very necessary business in this community.

Pat Ambrosier Almena, Kansas 67622



## Country meets big city at convention

This weekend Jim and I dipped our big toes in the waters of the political pool. I thought it was kinda fun; Jim doesn't want to try it again.

We were our county's delegates to the state convention and if you want to talk about a couple of county bumpkins - that was us. We were the brown suit in a room full of black; the white socks at prom; the tennis shoes in a room full of oxfords. It was like every person there knew every other person there - except for us. You know us, though. We got acquainted real quick.

The governor was there and listened as we made a plea for the prison program we're involved with. He, too, is aware of the program and has spearheaded a major fund raising effort to keep the program alive. One of our state senators also pledged his support. His lovely wife, who I interviewed once, remembered me (or at least said she did) and we shared a laugh about being supportive wives. She said her husband remembers names, while she never forgets a face. I told her what I said to someone who asked me what I did as part of my husband's prison ministry. I said, "I take the roll and remember names".

No matter what political party you belong to the process is probably the same. It's no secret that I'm a conservative so that's the direction I'm going to lean. Both sides probably bend the truth a little, I just like the conservative "bend" a little better.

We heard some things we want

### Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



to check out a little deeper; some things we really approve of; and some things we didn't like at all. It was a good experience - one I might like to repeat (now that I know a little more about how things work). It's doubtful I'll get Jim to go along.

-ob-

Part of this little excursion involved seeing two brothers, their wives, and friends along the way. Our first night on the road took us to Bill and Betty's. We finally had to make ourselves go to bed. They love visiting about politics, religion and family as much as we do.

This might not sound like fun to most, but we stopped by the state correctional facility where the prison program we are part of is based. Had a chance to see several men we've sent there and heard nothing but good comments about the program.

The second night out we stayed with Jim and Linda. I would tell you what we talked about, but I forget. That last comment was for Linda's benefit. She took great delight at my loss for words when we were discussing Alzheimer's and never missed an opportunity to rub it in.

Our third night on the road was in a

motel and, without a doubt, the worst mattress I have ever slept on. Sleep may be a euphemism because that was the last thing I did. Toss and turn was more like it. Anyway, I only had to deal with it one night because we had already determined we would drive back after the convention Saturday night. We left a little early. I drove halfway while Jim slept and he took us the rest of the way while I slept. Made it home before midnight so we still got a good night's sleep in our own bed, which never felt so good.

-ob-

My mother always said if you had three of anything it was a collection. So I'm not calling the box full of address labels on my desk an accumulation. It is officially a collection.

It's getting ridiculous, though. I will never live long enough to use all those address labels. Even if I did a mass mailing every week to my Christmas card list. Okay - I don't really have a Christmas card list, but if I did I would use those address labels.

If you don't have address labels and would like some all you have to do is send \$5 to some charity, any charity will do. Soon, you will be receiving address labels along with a plea for financial support. Your name will then be sold to other charities because you responded to their plea and so on and so on until you have amassed a mountain of address labels.

I told Jim we could never move. What would I do with all those labels?

## Water proposals are flowing fast for rural farmers

It's decision making time on farms across Kansas. In approximately two months, the fields will be alive as farmers begin planting next fall's crops.

In preparation for this upcoming planting season grain farmers need to decide soon which crops they'll plant, fertility and herbicide programs, plant populations, plant varieties and equally important, how much water they'll have available to irrigate specific crops.

Another wrench in this production planning involves insurance companies who are hammering out how to implement their irrigated versus dryland policies. At the same time the deadline for sign-ups is fast approaching.

It goes without saying, Kansas crop producers have their plates full trying to make decisions impacting their bottom lines and their future livelihood in the agricultural industry.

Still, some producers like McPherson County farmer/stockman Derek Sawyer took time to travel to the Statehouse to tell this side of the story. Garnering the full attention of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee Sawyer told these legislators just how important the proposed multi-year flex

### Insight

John Schlageck



account would benefit his family's cropping operation.

Sawyer who operates a fourth-generation dry-land and irrigated corn, wheat, soybean and milo farm with wife, Katie, told the legislators, "... it is time for Kansas to look at new ways for producers to more efficiently utilize the natural resources it has available."

During the extremely dry conditions of 2011, Sawyer enrolled three of his irrigation wells into emergency, two-year drought permits. Without the opportunity to increase his water usage, he would have suffered extreme yield declines or a complete crop failure in the fields serviced by these three wells.

With the specter of another drought looming, the McPherson County irrigator faces the prospects of another dry, hot summer with not enough water for crops he must soon plant.

Sawyer believes the multi-year flex permits will let him better utilize his water resources should another year or two of drought persist on his south-central Kansas farm.

"I will likely take advantage of this multi-year flex proposal on my three wells if it passes," Sawyer told the House committee. "I will need to know soon, because spring planting season is 60 days away and I have cropping choices, fertilizing and herbicide applications, plant population numbers and plant varieties to decide on."

All of these decisions will dramatically affect Sawyer's bottom line. A decrease in production because of a lack of irrigation could decrease his production and have a detrimental impact on his operation.

It appears the voices of Kansas farmers are being heard in Topeka. The Kansas legislature is wasting little time in moving proposed changes in water policy. Let's hope this important work gets done so this state's crop producers can continue with their plans and be ready to go this spring when soil temperatures warm up and corn, soybean and milo planting season arrives.

Stay tuned.



Thumbs up to the folks who found and returned keys that were lost in the aftermath of the last snow storm.

Your kind deed put a very bright spot in our day and it was appreciated!

In a world where negative comments or complaints seem easy to surface, good comments to encourage are like a breath of spring. Thanks Norton Telegram for offering the Thumbs Up section. Emailed in.

Remember there is no charge for rendering a Thumbs Up. Thumbs Up are meant to give recognition for a positive person or event in the community. Also remember all Letters to the Editor must be signed.

Call Dana for your next ad. 877-3361!

## ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- ★ **Governor Sam Brownback**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. roberts.senate.gov/public/ (202) 224-4774
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran**, Russell Senate Office Building Room C-4, Washington, D.C. 20002. moran.senate.gov/public/ (202) 224-6521
- ★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 300 SW 10th St., Room 262-E A., Topeka, Kan. 66612. ralph.ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us (785) 296-7399
- ★ **Congressman Tim Huelskamp**, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. huelskamp.house.gov (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124
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