

Where the public opinion is voiced

Editor,

In Friday's edition of the Telegram, (January 11) Nancy Hagman was discussing the gas tax. In it she talked about our "high fuel efficient vehicles". What high fuel efficient vehicles? If she's talking about the ones that are getting a measly 34, 35 or 36 MPG, then I have to disagree that these are high fuel efficiency vehicles.

We have been working with cars or vehicles for over 100 years. Even though we have improved them a great deal, we are still not getting much better MPG now than we had at the first of the 20th century. By now, it is my opinion that we should be driving vehicles that get at least 75 MPG. I just cannot believe that over the years our engineers have not been able to develop an engine that can get that kind of efficiency from gas. Think about it.

Also, in Friday's paper, Mary Kay Woodyard is saying: "Private lives should be that, private." I agree 100 percent. We have very little left in the way of privacy in our high technological age. If you stop to think about it, a great deal of our privacy is no longer private. 50 to 60 years ago, when we had colored toilet paper, my dad used to say: "So much is known about us, that they even know what color toilet paper we are using." I have to wonder how much more they know about us now.

Many of our activities now are online. We have gotten sloppy about how much we have put out into the public eye about ourselves. Also, there is a great deal being put out online by the use of credit cards, debit cards, banks, and various businesses. Just for a little bit of an experiment, put your name into a search engine and hit the search button. I think you'll find it quite interesting what you'll come up with.

I have recently acquired a book called "Shadow Government" by Grant R. Jeffrey. I've only read the introduction and the first chapter, and believe me, that little bit is pretty scary. To give you some idea of what the book is about, let me quote a paragraph from the back cover.

"Security cameras, surveillance of your financial transactions, radio frequency spy chips hidden in consumer products, tracking of your Internet searches, and eavesdropping on your e-mail and phone calls. Without your knowledge or consent, every aspect of your life is all observed and recorded. But who is watching the watchers?"

I have a feeling that this book will shock, scare and horrify you better than any horror fiction you've ever read, because this isn't fiction, it is what we're actually living with today.

June Prout
Norton, Kansas

Letter to the Editor,

To Norton property owners and renters:

On Tuesday, January 22, 2013 I was given the opportunity to show a gentleman from a television station in Nebraska some of Norton's attractions and neighborhoods, hoping that at a later date he might consider doing another presentation or feature on our community.

I have to admit I was more than a little embarrassed by the condition of some of the properties in town. Yards filled with cars, pickups, trash, furniture, front porches being used as storage areas, broken out windows, doors gone, houses in need of paint and maintenance.

I apologized for the appearance and then wondered what can be done to change this situation and also if it really was any of MY business???

I came to the conclusion, it is not only MY business but YOURS too because this is our home and where we make our living. We should take pride in how Norton looks. So much work is being done by the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, Tourism, City and County, Schools, Hospital and Industry plus several individuals to promote a positive productive picture of our community that should demand our participation in keeping our home, yards and businesses cleaned up and maintained.

It makes a huge difference when people are relocating, securing doctors and teachers, new business and to visitors who return to visit family and friends and how they perceive this community.

I am asking you as renters and owners of properties to help Norton to continue to be a leader of small town communities by doing your part in keeping you property maintained and take pride in living and being a part of Norton, Kansas. Thank you in advance for your help and being a part of the solution not the problem.

Sincerely,
Rose Garrison

Letters to the Editor and Thumbs Up:
e-mail dpaxton@nwkansas.com
or to write 215 S. Kansas Ave.



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.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

E-mail:
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

ISSN 1063-701X

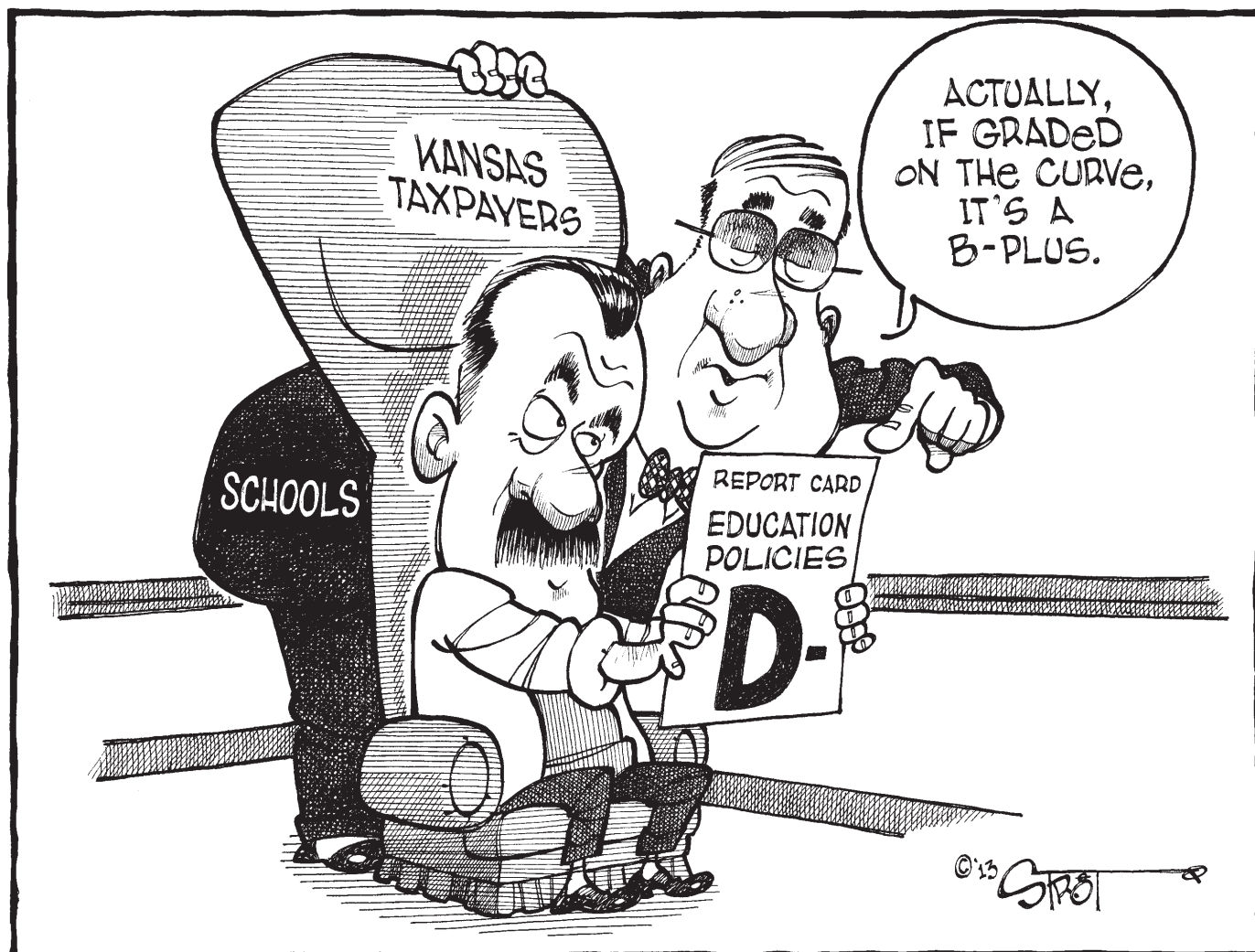
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654
Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
Official newspaper of Norton 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.-Thur.
8 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Friday
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732

STAFF

Dana Paxton..... General Manager
Advertising Director/Managing Editor
email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com
Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay Sports
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Michael Stephens..... Reporter
Society Editor/Area Sports
mstephens@nwkansas.com
Vicki Henderson..... Computer Production
Marcia Shelton..... Office Manager



Keeping things in perspective

What we need now, more than ever, are ears to listen without turning away, voices to speak without condemnation, and an atmosphere of dedication. In all too many issues, we choose to close our minds to everything not generated by our own voice. It doesn't have to be sweeping gun control, but it does have to be an honest conversation in search of answers to very real problems.

When 9/11 occurred, we acted on fear, passing legislation probably not suitable to the circumstances. Laws that were more reactionary than responsible. We need to begin with evaluating the current situation and looking at the myriad of responsible parties; from the perpetrator, to society, to video games, to gun laws, to mental health, to families. There is plenty of blame to go around.

Not to minimize any loss, but it is important to keep things in perspective as we forge our way into this morass. Nearly 50 million children, from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, attend public schools every day, not considering the 5.3 million in private schools. Each day, those children and their parents, embark on the path towards education with an expectation

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



of safety, a goal not always achieved.

In 2010, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 180 children, 11 years of age and younger, died from a firearm. One hundred twenty-seven of these deaths were homicide; the others were accidental, or suicide, or undetermined causes. Overwhelmingly, 86%, of those killed by a firearm occurred at home, with the family weapon. Nearly all occurred out of the public eye. Regardless of how or where, these parents and family members mourned a loss, but all too often without a voice.

In September of 2011, the CDC reported nearly half of Americans will suffer some form of mental illness during their lifetime. Illnesses ranging from depression to post traumatic stress disorder or one of numerous others. Many will never receive treatment,

perhaps because of the stigma, or the cost and/or the lack of insurance.

Children often engage in video activity, i.e. television, movies or games. It can consume many hours per week. Establishing a clear link, between violent behavior and these activities, has not occurred. We do know, however, overexposure may neutralize a child's reaction to events. When children become distressed, through an actual event, they generally will seek out their parent for comfort. Studies have found, when children become distressed while playing a video game or watching a program, they don't reach out to the parent for guidance and parents are unaware of the child's anxiety. Consequently, an opportunity to further develop coping skills is lost.

There is no simple answer, nor is there an absolute truth. One thing is for sure, we cannot address only one aspect of this multifaceted problem and we cannot maintain a singular approach. We must make a start, but realize that even a total revamping of any one of these problems is not enough. All must be addressed. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

What goes on in the bathroom, stays there

Have you seen the toilet tissue commercials where the gal says, "It's time to have an honest talk about what goes on in the bathroom"?

Ummmmm, no, it is not. I believe what goes on in the bathroom (hopefully) stays in the bathroom.

I'm only broaching the subject because I'm going to die. Maybe soon! I'm doing this out of concern for all of you. Perhaps someone else will benefit from my mistake.

Someone did a study and decided toothbrushes stored openly in the bathroom are loaded with germs. I saw a definitive analysis on "Myth Busters". Though I can't remember what conclusion they drew.

Without getting too graphic, the theory goes like this: Bacteria from bodily functions become airborne, land on the toothbrush, and end up in the mouth.

Fine, but it strikes me as worse to leave a damp toothbrush in a dark place like the medicine cabinet or in a plastic toothbrush holder in a drawer (like the hubby does). And it would be totally weird to put it in the living room! So my toothbrushes (and all that is growing on them) live in a tooth brush holder, three feet from the toilet!

They also say you should replace your toothbrush after an illness or you may re-infect yourself. That is probably a good idea. Up to this point I haven't

This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



had any malingering illnesses. I get a new toothbrush at least every year.

When I was a kid we got a new one in our stockings at Christmas. What an innocent time, we actually thought that was a neat present! Now my dental hygienist is Santa Claus. She gives me one when I get my teeth cleaned.

The reason I don't worry too much about what is floating around in my bathroom or illness is I always clean my toothbrush before using it. Plus my toothpaste has peroxide which kills germs. It tastes terrible and is not what I intended to buy. But it seems whenever I find something I like they come out with five "better" versions and drop the original so I adjust.

I keep two toothbrushes available for use. When I get a new toothbrush I relegate the one that seems in the worst condition to the cleaning supplies. They work nicely for jewelry and to clean the heads of the hubby's electric razor. A chore I did Saturday.

Sunday evening I look at the toothbrush holder and realize there

are three toothbrushes: pink, purple and green. Each is designed a little differently. I wonder why? Is the latest model cutting edge technology? Or just the cheapest? A freebie from the dental supply house? So many questions, I'll probably go to the grave without answers!

It seemed odd there were three toothbrushes. Then it occurred to me that the pink toothbrush was the one I used to clean the razor and Lord knows what else.

At the same moment came the realization I used the pink one that morning. I remember thinking "this toothbrush is shaped differently and the bristles are kind of stiff!"

I'M GOING TO DIE!!!!

It's been a few days. So far I'm doing pretty well. My symptoms are confined to nausea whenever I think about what has occurred.

I'm not a hypochondriac but this is how I see my demise. Some microscopic poison, germ or bacteria was introduced into my body. It is amplifying every second. Eventually-----

It's been a good life, I have few regrets. It's been worth it if I save even one person from a similar fate.

If I live? Everyone: go get Arm and Hammer toothpaste with peroxide. It tastes awful but it will sanitize anything!