

Why we should shop at home

We've heard people say they don't shop at home because of the high sales taxes and "there's nothing to buy here anyway."

This seems to us like something that is half myth and half self-fulfilling prophecy.

If you don't shop at home, the stores here will go out of business and there really won't be anything to buy.

How would you like to have to go 30 or 50 miles to fill up your car? That could happen if you drive to the next town to buy all your gas.

How about running out of essentials, like bread and milk. Would you want to drive to Walmart to get that last ingredient you need for supper?

And health care. If you always go out of town to see the doctor and dentist, the day you suffer that heart attack or break a tooth, you may find that you have to go a long ways to get help because the doctors and dentist, the pharmacists and therapists couldn't make a living here and moved to that other town.

And yes, you have to pay sales tax on just about everything you purchase. It isn't much lower anywhere else, except on food.

But ask yourself, "What does that sales tax buy me?"

It buys you a swimming pool, parks and summer baseball. It helps pay for the ambulance service, fire departments, police protection and other public services. It helps pay for state highways and services, and especially, for schools.

Sure, most of us pay property taxes, but those aren't enough to pay for everything the city and county and state are expected to provide for us. It does take a lot of money to educate our children.

The money from sales taxes helps keep the property taxes down and pays for all those things that the county does - upkeep on roads, the landfill, the health department, the emergency medical service and the county fire departments.

These are all things people think need to be done and expect the county to do. But somebody, somewhere has to pay for all these things.

And so what happens when you go elsewhere to shop - to McCook, Hays, Kearney, Colby?

They get the sales tax. Their streets get fixed. Their elderly get cared for. Their parks get watered and their swimming pool gets financed. And don't believe you don't pay sales tax when you shop in Nebraska. They may not have tax on groceries, but you'll never go to a store there and not bring back something that is taxed.

Even many Internet sales are now being taxed.

So, while we're not against an occasional shopping trip, we believe that when you shop at home, you're taking the long view of protecting what's important and doing yourself a favor.

Keeping your home town livable is pretty important, and the businesses we have are one of the main benefits of a town like ours.

- Cynthia Haynes



Term limits might be the answer

In a letter to the editor, R.W. Yeager highlighted issues he feels are contributing to our nation's problems. Most of his accusations I disagree with, but one, I must admit, holds merit. It is not something I have always endorsed, but over time have come to realize its value. As much as it galls me to say it, you are right, Mr. Yeager.

He wrote, "The only ones that could correct this situation is our Congress, but it is controlled by life-time, career, self-serving politicians, of both parties..." Term limits are an idea whose time has come.

American novelist Edward Abbey once said, "Society is like a stew. If you don't stir it up every once in a while then a layer of scum floats to the top." I believe the same holds true for Congress. In the past I have believed we had term limits with the power of the vote. Unfortunately, even with increased news sources, our public seems to rely more on name recognition than

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



education and information.

According to the U.S. Senate website, the first 100 years of our Senate's existence had few members who actually served a second term. Many were unable to even complete their first one. Those elected to a second term were considered the "long-time veterans." One drawback for serving in Washington back then included less than ideal travel conditions and sometimes rather crude lodging. It often meant "a senator having to share a bed with one or more strangers." Congress has a different name for that now; but that's an-

other time, another column.

We do have some well meaning, hard working people serving us and term limits will prevent them from continuing their good work. The public's incessant interest, encouraged by the media, to pry into the private lives and history of candidates and potential candidates often discourages the very public servants we need. Some of the accusations are true and some are not, but either way candidates are at the mercy of the press and the public. In some political races, even finding willing candidates can be almost impossible.

According to a Gallop Poll last year, over 70 percent of all ages supported term limits for Congress, myself included. All too often, incumbents do not favor term limits, but now is a good time to contact your representative and senator and make your voice be heard. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

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Letters to the Editor and Thumbs Up:
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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 quest for the perfect little man's gift

There was a headline: Three little words you should never say to your son!"

I do not have a son, but thinking it might be handy to have some advice for the parents of my grandson, I started reading.

The words? Be a man!

REALLY? I've failed then, not only as a mom but as a grandparent!

Our eldest daughter, Kate and Mo both have May birthdays so as I thought of Christmas presents for Mo I thought of Kate and her development. She greatly enjoyed a Jack-in-the-Box at 6 months.

She giggled in anticipation when the tune was getting close to POP! She shrieked when it did. We did it over and over and over and over!

So early in the fall I began a quest. I was going to find the Holy Grail of Jack-in-the-Boxes for Mo. I shopped locally (Alco at Phillipsburg and Smith Center), then around the Courthouse square. Nope, not even at Ace. We love Ace. It's the Place!

The quilting group went on a Shop Hop; there were stores in southwest Nebraska, plus Norton and Oberlin. We checked other stores as we traveled. Cozad has a beautiful variety/drugstore. Lots of toys!

Knowing of my mission, probably every one of our group asked a salesperson if they had a Jack-in-the-Box. I fear they decided to stock them because there seemed to suddenly be so much demand.

This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



Returning home I checked on-line, first with Doug and Melissa. Doug and Melissa make beautiful toys. They carry that line in Destination Kitchen. But Doug and Melissa do not make a Jack-in-the-Box.

Someone told me they had difficulty finding a Jack-in-the-Box that popped in sync with the music. So I decided against buying online, but I did check availability. There are 20 or so variations of Jacks. Since I didn't write it down I promptly forgot where I might be able to attain even one. (Give me a break, I'm a Grandma! I forget things!)

Finally the first week of December I found myself in Wichita. I was getting worried enough I may have looked at toys in Walgreens. Right before I went postal on them. Okay I didn't go postal on them, but it's only going to take one more trip in there, I swear. Someday I'll tell you all about it!

That December day, I was at my sister's. She is a fitness freak. Let's go shopping she says, we need to walk and it's too cold to do it outside. We went to Target. That Target did not have Jack-in-the-Boxes.

So she suggested Toys 'R Us. Per-

fect. Because though they have attempted to fix Kellogg, they are never going to truly fix Kellogg. Toys 'R Us is basically across the street from Target but, it takes logistics to get there.

Whew, we made it. Did I mention it was bitterly cold? Damp? Wednesday? 3:30? 21 shopping days until Christmas? Why did every fool in Sedgwick County and one from Smith decide it was a good time to go to Toys 'R Us?

To find a Jack-in-the-Box?

Toys 'R Us had lots of clerks, all very busy. The store was a mess. We found someone to ask. "They would be with our FAO toys." The directions he gave were not good. Found another clerk. "FAO Toys!" She took us! There was ONE, only ONE: it was PINK!

I remembered this from on-line; there were pink and blue in one style. Why? What do babies know about pink versus blue?

It's the grandmas that have an issue with it.

No matter how terrible it is to tell little boys, "Be a man!" No matter how damaging the expectations of society can be: This grandma could not buy her grandson a pink Jack-in-the-Box.

It might have been the prudent thing to do because our shopping experience continued to spiral downward. But I could not do it.

Three little words: "Be a man."

Hang with me----it's going to take me about 2000 to cover three little words. See you next week!

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