

from our viewpoint...

Easy to tell when it's election year

If our economy is as sick as the experts tell us it is, where's all the money coming from to finance this 2010 election?

That's a fair question; where is it coming from? It's coming from all those special interests who have special connections on Capitol Hill. You know, we'll pat your back if you pat ours.

We have no idea how much money will be spent this year by the Democrats, who want to hang onto their control of the U.S. House and Senate, and by the Republicans, who are of the belief they are prime to gain control of both chambers.

Billions of dollars will be spent on advertising — of course most, or all of it on television and radio, where they think they have their largest audience. Their largest audience, we might again remind them, is in the small communities in all 50 states who look to their local newspaper for what's going on. The candidates do look to the local newspaper, all right, but for the FREE stuff; you know they arrive in town and sit on our laps to tell us about their greatness so we can pass those words onto our readers. Then when they are done with us they high tail to the radio and tv stations to dump their cash on advertising.

We know we play second fiddle when it comes to campaigns. And we know it's campaign season when they peek their heads in the door., smile the biggest smile they can muster and say in pal-like fashion, "Hey, there, GOOD TO SEE YOU!" Sure they are, but where have they been since the last election?

But as a community newspaper, we do what is expected of us; we tell you who was in town and what they said. You expect that and we deliver. But we're sure glad that the food put on the tables of community newspaper employees isn't driven by political advertising because if it was we'd all starve.

But that's the way it is. And we don't expect anything to change. We do take pride in the fact politicians seek us out because news is what we do, the reason we exist. And we'll continue doing that. If by chance some change falls from their pockets onto the carpet while they are visiting with us, we'll pick it up and call it a day.

Yep, they're back. Must be an election year. - TD
(Writer's note: we do exclude Congressman Moran and state legislators Sen. Ostmeyer and Rep. Morrison.)

Letter Policy

The Goodland Star-News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste. We encourage letters, with address and phone numbers, by e-mail to: <star.news@nwkansas.com>.

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Reader gives thumbs up to Cowgirls

Thumbs up to: "Our basketball girls for giving it their best shot. Stand tall, ladies!"- (e-mail); "td, for sharing the story about his nephew. We have a child with similar disabilities and your story made him feel so good. Thanks."-(personal note); "the Grant Junior High wrestlers for turning in the school's best season ever.-(e-mail); "the Kiwanis Club, for starting a Student Chapter of Circle K at Northwest Tech."-(e-mail). (To give a thumbs up, simply e-mail td1@st-tel.net, call 890-2475, or leave it off at The Star-News office; no charge. Thanks!)

-td-

I'm excited about two things going on in our town that really could be classified as 'door openers' to entice the curious to give us another look. And I hope you are too. Those two things are a downtown grocery store and Northwest Tech's plans for the former National Guard Armory. Tom Betz has been filling us in on the particulars in his reporting and those stories have sparked a lot of interest within the community and the county. What we as citizens should be doing is talking these opportunities up. Let our leadership know where we stand, offer to help whatever the need. These are positives and could well be the ticket to...well, better times.

-td-

I'm not much of a NASCAR fan, but now and then I do watch those machines go round and round. I say machines because I lack knowledge necessary to use appropriate descriptions. This past Sunday I watched the race from start to finish and near the end there was



tom dreiling

- time out with td

a track accident (accident?) whereby a driver (intentionally?)clipped the rear end of the car in front of him (anyway it looked that way on the rerun) and that machine went twisting and turning into the air; the driver, fortunately, wasn't injured, but he was certainly mad and I don't blame him. He was in position to finish in the top 10 — I think he was in 6th place when the crash occurred. Then minutes later another disruption involving several other cars made the track look like a junk yard. That happened very near the finish. The educated tell me that some of these accidents aren't accidents. So let your brain figure it out. One of my sons, Lance, has been a NASCAR fan for Lord know how many years and being switched to the right channel on Sundays is a rite of its own in his home. His chatter when we're visiting is what prompted me to occasionally peek in on the races. They are thrilling, to say the least. And I have been involved in something very similar to a NASCAR race experience; it's called rush hour traffic in Denver.

-td-

Enough on sports.

-td-

I was listening to some guy on television a few nights ago and he said the stimulus package totaled \$787 billion and to date \$320 billion has been committed, and only \$190 billion

Babies don't know about 'due dates'

It was like deja vu all over again, as the comedian says.

We were on our way home from the radio station after working a shift as DJs for the annual Rotary Radio Day fund raiser on Sunday when we got the call.

"Daddy, my water broke. We're on our way to the hospital."

Youngest daughter, who's due date was April 1, was about to become a mother more than three weeks early.

We weren't surprised. Lindsay is just 5 foot tall, and she'd already looked like she swallowed a beach ball when we saw her in December.

After her doctor's appointment last week, she had called to say the baby weighed almost six pounds, was head down and ready to go.

Since she is a small person, I had been wor-



cynthia haynes

- open season

ried she'd have a nine- or 10-pound baby, if she indeed carried it until the first of April.

Not to worry. This kid was ready to go and had March 7 marked as her date for getting out into the world.

As we waited for word. Steve reminded me of oldest daughter's arrival almost 36 years ago.

That was a Sunday afternoon, too. Steve was at work; his days off were Tuesday and Saturday. It was springtime and I was working around the house, mulching my irises and

has actually been distributed. What was the rush all about? No wonder it doesn't seem to be working.

-td-

One thing for certain is that after watching the Oscars Sunday night I will see Hurt Locker. That movie pretty much dominated the annual movie awards show. And for the first time ever, a woman was named Best Director, and the movie she directed? Hurt Locker. Good for her!

-td-

Don't forget: Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday. Move your clock UP one hour before going to bed Saturday night. Got it? Good!

-td-

I wonder if Daylight Saving Time will eventually become the norm year around. As it now stands, we are on that time 8 of the 12 months. Only November, December, January and February do we operate on Standard Time. With we insulin-dependent people, the time change does have an impact. It seems, in my case anyway, that it takes my system a good month or so to adjust and working around that can be tricky, I inject insulin three times a day. And twice a year, when we change time, I go through this. Maybe I'm being selfish, but there are probably others with a lot more serious complications than mine who have to do adjusting also when the time changes.

-td-

Have a good evening! And when you plan your weekend, make sure it includes a visit to the house of worship of your choice.

cleaning up the yard. My water broke. I wasn't sure what to do, so I called Steve.

"That's nice," he said. A pause. "What!"

He rushed home and I waited for the contractions to start while he cleaned up around the house, then we headed for the hospital.

Oldest daughter wasn't as accommodating as our first grandchild. She was not head down and ready to go. But come she did, exiting into the world rear-end first.

I was happy that Lindsay didn't have that to worry about.

In fact, according to her sister, the obstetrics nurse asked her for her shoe size since women with small feet will usually also have a small pelvis.

The nurse was worried when the answer was 4 1/2. (I told you she was small.)

But a quick check of her hips proved that this mother-to-be is my daughter.

If there's one thing my French Canadian ancestors gave me, and I passed on to all three of my children, it's wide hips and an adequate butt.

With her sister and husband coaching, urging and generally doing their part, Taylor Madison Blake made her entrance into the world at 10:15 p.m. Sunday night.

The new arrival is small just like her mother — just 6 pounds, 2 ounces and 18 3/4 inches long — but has lots of dark hair and long fingers and toes, just like her dad.

Mother and daughter were doing well and oldest daughter proudly announced that neither she nor Bradley had fainted.

And me? I just can't wait to get to Georgia