

from our viewpoint...

Scam devils target Medicare recipients

Those maggots of manure, better known as scam devils, are at it again. This time they are targeting Medicare beneficiaries. They always after those least able to help themselves to do their dirty work.

These scam sickies do all they can to pry bank account numbers and other numbers out of their potential victims. Right now, they are playing on the confusion surrounding the Medicare Part D prescription drug program.

For a fee of \$350, they will offer to sell you a new Medicare card. After they’ve got your bank account number they got you, they electronically withdraw money from your account. Zap, there it goes!

And they make it sound so official, like representing Pharma Corp., National Medical Office, Medicare National Office and National Medicare, just to name a few of the fictitious handles they are using.

Sandy Praeger, Kansas commissioner of Insurance, says it is against Medicare’s rules to call a person with Medicare and ask for bank account or other personal information, or a cash payment. If you get such calls, hang up and call the Kansas Insurance Department at (800) 432-2484, or Medicare at (877) 772-3379.

If you have parents on Medicare, please tell them to ignore such telephone calls. In fact, play it safe all around and instruct them to hang up on anybody who calls asking for their bank account, credit card, Medicare or other numbers, or asks for money up front.

It’s a shame how these crooks are able to take advantage of our aging population. We often wonder if any of the scammers ever get caught and if they do, what kind of sentence, or slap on the wrist, they receive. Whatever it is, it’s too light.

Our only defense is to watch and protect those who place their trust in us.

—Tom Dreiling, *The Norton Telegram*

where to write

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; web address — roberts.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521; web e-mail address — brownback.senate.gov/CMEmail.me

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2443 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; Fax (202) 225-5124 e-mail address — jerry.moran@mail.house.gov

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building Rm. 124-N, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676; e-mail address — jmorriso@ink.org

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, Rm. 128-S, 300 SW 10th, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785-296-7399; e-mail address — ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

Kansas Attorney General Phil Kline, 301 S.W. 10th, Lower Level, Topeka, KS 66612-1597 (785) 296-3751 Fax (785) 291-3699 TTY: (785) 291-3767

The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association

Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association

National Newspaper Association

e-mail: star-news@nwkansas.com



Steve Haynes, President

Tom Betz, Editor

Erica Harlan, Copy Editor

Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor

Pat Schiefen, Reporter

Sports Editor

Anne Selfridge, Advertising Sales

Sheila Smith, Office Manager

Nor’west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Judy McKnight, Betty Morris,

Heather Merklin, Jerry Kirkpatrick, James Jackson,

Lana Westfahl, Barbara Lindsley



nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services

(ntbetz@nwkansas.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.(support@nwkansas.com)

Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year’s Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: star-news@nw-kansas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkansas.com

The Goodland Star-News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$24; six months, \$42; 12 months, \$76. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$34; six months, \$49; 12 months, \$84. Mailed individually each day: 12 months, \$119. (All tax included.)

Incorporating:

The Goodland Daily News

1932-2003

The Sherman County Herald

Founded by Thomas McCants

1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR

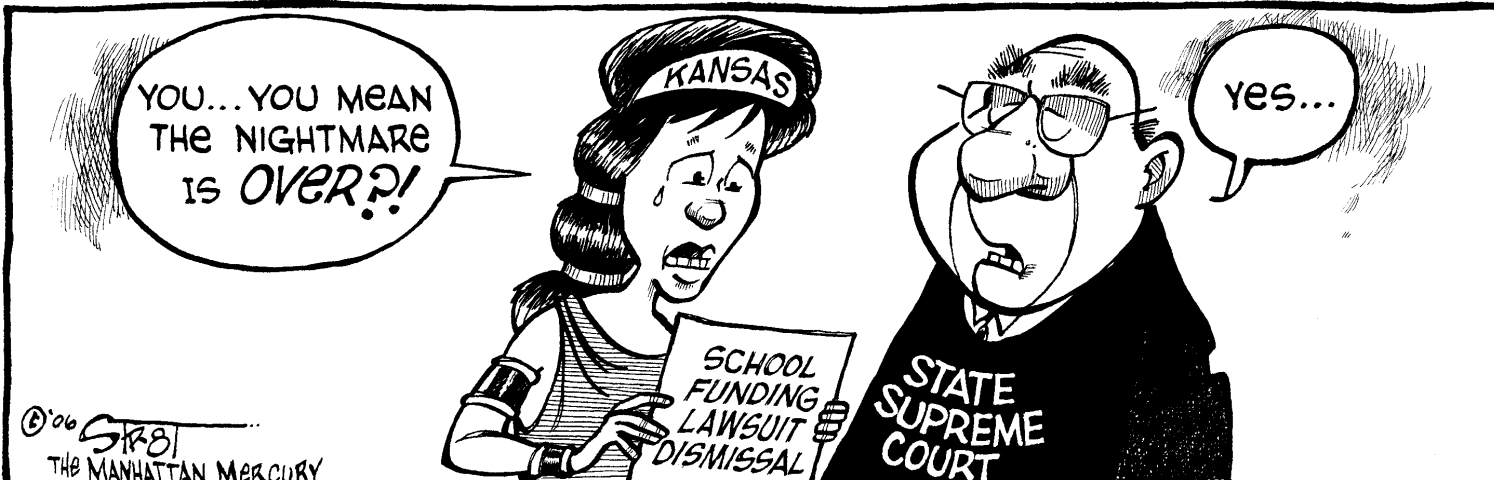
Founded by Eric and

Roxie Yonkey

1994-2001

Nor’West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



Republican policies labeled anti-Hispanics

You have to wonder whether the Republican party plans to marginalize itself or it just works out that way.

Despite six years of hard work by President George Bush and years before that in Texas and across the country, the Republicans are ready to write off the Hispanic vote forever.

The party is giving in to a wave of xenophobic anti-immigration fears, locking itself into positions that will brand it as anti-Hispanic and anti-immigrant for decades to come.

The Democrats are only too happy to sweep up those votes, clutching Mexican-American voters and other Hispanics to their bosom as they did the black vote in the 1960s.

We all know how that went. Even today, more than four decades later, the Republicans still get only a handful of African-American votes.

The pity of it is, Bush, Karl Rove and their crew had this pretty well figured out. The president, as governor of Texas, knew how to talk to Hispanic voters. He speaks Spanish well enough to get his point across on the stump.

In Texas, you don’t ignore the Hispanic vote. Increasingly, that’s true across the country.



steve haynes

- along the sappa

It’s just good politics to include Hispanics. And it’s the right thing to do.

The immigration “crisis” is phony anyway. We’re not being inundated by more workers than the economy can handle, no one comes here just to get on welfare, and no, there are not hundreds of terrorists streaming across the border, no matter what the scare-mongers claim.

The Republicans are shifting over to the thoughts of immigration nut cases like Congressman Tom Tancredo of Denver, who’s talked about nothing else for years.

Even if we could build a wall clear across the continent, it wouldn’t solve much.

Our economy would still need more workers. People in Mexico would still want to come here to make a living.

“But it’s illegal to sneak across the border,”

The fratlomat



will durst

- raging moderate

It was quite a performance the president put on at the G-8 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, this year. If you, like me, understand the phrase “quite a performance” to mean “whoa, dude, chill.”

Maybe a switch to decaffeinated is in order. “Yo, Blair.”

That’s how he hailed the prime minister of Great Britain at a photo op at the closing of the conference.

“Yo, Blair.”

Sounds like how I might greet one of my friends, but you know what, I’m not the president of the United States of America at a major world summit. Which, as Martha Stewart says, is a good thing.

Bush then proceeded to mumble some spurious advice to Tony Blair with a mouth full of partially masticated roll, answering once and for all why his staff goes to such lengths to keep him corralled like a roping calf in Crawford, Texas, where chewing with your mouth open is considered an art form as well as a compliment to the chef. We’ve got some spoiled fruit running the country and he’s loose and playing frat boy diplomat with the big kids and ev-

erything is going horribly awry, people!

As bored with the whole concept of diplomacy as a 5-year-old stuck in the quantum physics section of a Jamaican library, and obviously distressed at not finding President Putin to gaze soul searchingly into the eyes of, Bush wandered around the big conference table finally lighting upon German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Distractedly, he began to give her a back rub prompting a typical Teutonic reaction, in which Ms. Merkel tensed up tighter than a retaining wire on the mast of a sailing ship in a force-five gale. She hunched her shoulders, grimaced, and threw up her hands in an apparent plea for the World Court to augment Bush’s future war crimes trial with a sexual harassment charge.



someone will scream. “They’re breaking the law.”

They do that because there is no legal way for a Mexican worker to come to this country. The waiting list stretches for years. It’s impossible.

All the rhetoric does is push Hispanics to the Democrats. Some of them have been in this country since the 1600s, longer than most Anglo families. Others came decades ago to work for railroads, mines and farms. Still more have come in recent years.

Those who stay — and many do go home — want to be Americans. They will vote. They will remember.

And make no mistake. They are not going to be voting Republican any time soon if this keeps up.

Still, the party seems ready to line up lemming-like and jump off the nearest political cliff.

It’s stupid, foolish and wrong, but there you have it. A watershed in politics the likes of which comes along once or twice a century, a lost opportunity of immense proportions, a wrong that begs to be righted.

And probably won’t.

What did he expect? For her to turn around and whisper seductively, “I’ll give you a week to cut that out”? She’s German, for crum’s sake. East German. Everyone knows the East Germans are as cuddly as a stainless steel teddy bear.

I imagine we should consider ourselves lucky he didn’t grab her butt and make “honk-honk” noises. Or pulled a “gotcha” where he pokes her in the chest and then tweaks her nose after she looks down. And you know the cupped hand under the armpit thing is definitely in his arsenal.

We haven’t even talked about the word that rhymes with spit and would cost me \$325,000 if I accidentally blurted it out during my day job on the radio. The hypocrisy of him signing that sanctimonious bill is so thick you can scrape the excess mendacity off the top like froth off a cappuccino.

Then, without missing a beat, he asks President Hu of China, “How long does it take you to get home? Eight hours? Wow. Russia’s a big country. So is China, isn’t it?” Yes, George, China is a big country. Got a lot of people in it too. And Mexico. Great Mexican food. And full of Mexicans. But you already know that, because you speak Mexican, don’t you?

Can you imagine Roosevelt giving the Reichsfuhrer a back rub? Well, actually, I guess Neville Chamberlain kind of did, but that’s not the point. Instead of grandstanding for its election-year base, it is incumbent on Congress to save our nation further embarrassment by passing a law immediately prohibiting all members of the Bush family from any televised meeting with a foreign leader where food is being served. And mittens. They should be required to wear mittens.

Comic, writer, actor, radio talk show host, and expert back rub-giver Will Durst, is typing with mittens and his mouth full of food right now.

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@nw-kansas.com>.