

## Here's an idea worth pursuing

Sometimes a news story or a magazine article tells you about a wonderful idea. The *Denver Post* had one of those last month. It was on the inside — really on the inside, Page 24A jumping to Page 27A. But it struck me as a great idea that could be modified for northwest Kansas.

The story told how the food bank in Boulder posts a little white sign on its door telling people what it needs the most. "The little white sign sitting modestly in front of the Emergency Family Assistance Association's office is like a catalog of community need," the story says. "Corn. Toothpaste. Toilet paper."

What a great idea. Just a little notice telling people what people need. People in this country are incredibly generous. They give to help hurricane victims, terrorist targets, cancer sufferers, sick children and homeless cats and dogs. They give food, money, bedding and support, whatever someone asks for.

But, they have to know there is a problem and what is needed. Now, it probably wouldn't do much good out here to put a note on the food pantry's door. Most of them are run by churches and a note on the door will only reach a small congregation.

However, if the people who run the food pantries and the people who run the groceries got together, they could help each other and lots of others.

How about if the food pantry organizers gave the grocers a list of their most-needed items each week? The grocery could put that list on a small table with those items so that people could pick a couple of things up when they do their shopping. Then they could put the purchased items into a box at the store, take them to the pantry or leave them at the newspaper office. We'd be happy to help. Heck, we could even print the list if someone brought it to us.

If the grocery doesn't have room for a table, a note on the door would help those wanting to help others know what is most needed.

If the grocery wanted to go even further, it could put out bags of needed items with prices on them — \$5, \$10.99, \$17.29 — so that people could just pick up a bag of most-needed products and pay for it with their other purchases.

The stores would benefit from the additional business and the food pantries would get restocked on stuff that go quickly.

It's a win-win situation, but it will take cooperation and someone making the first move. — *Cynthia Haynes*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

### 4-H club needs addresses of soldiers

To the Editor: Our 4-H group (Harvesters 4-H Club of Selden) is baking cookies for any active duty soldiers who have ties to the Northwest Kansas area, and we are trying to get addresses for these soldiers. If you have any addresses that have been listed in the

paper could you please e-mail them to me. Also, if you have any information on other ways to get these addresses it would be greatly appreciated.

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## THE NORTON TELEGRAM

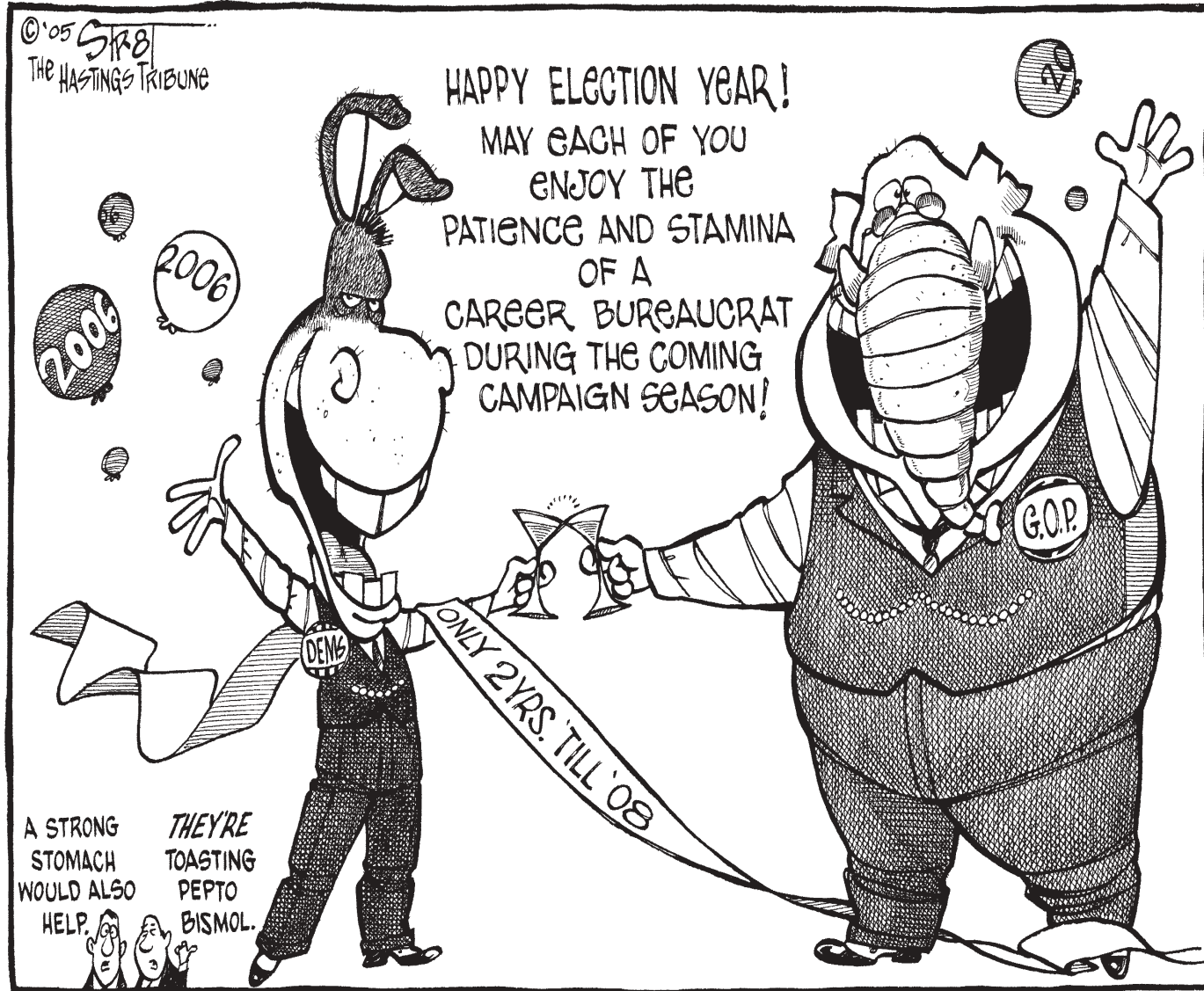
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## Getting the best of a telemarketer

I think I got the best of a telemarketer a short time back. You know how they simply pick phone numbers randomly. In my brief retirement, I lived in a 6-story, 90-apartment complex in the community of Hays, housing 105 people. One early evening the phone rang and the voice on the other end asked if I was the owner.

"Sure," I said. (Why not have a little fun.)

He (the caller) said that with an anticipated bump sure to come in home mortgage rates that he could tie me into a good deal that would guard me against any unforeseen increase.

"Wow! Sounds good," I said. "First," he said, "I will need some information."

"Go ahead," I responded. "How many bedrooms do you have?" he asked.

"90," I said. There was a slight hesitation, then he said, "I'm sorry. You must have misunderstood. How many bedrooms do you have?"

Again I said, "90," and then quickly added, "and I'm having 105 sleepovers tonight."

There was silence. Then this from the caller, "You have a good evening." And he hung up.

Chalk one up for me. -td-

I keep hearing the debate as it relates to President Bush's snooping program. If anybody thinks this is new, you must have been sleeping with Rip Van Winkle. I think our government, a/k/a Big Brother, has been snooping on us for more years than any of us can count, or want to believe. But is it right? That's what is at the heart of the debate now. Choose your side. But be careful who you call...or who calls you...and from where.

### My 2¢ Worth Tom Dreiling



I always get a big laugh out of hearing, "You heard it first on" (name the television station you are watching). Naturally you heard it first on that station. If you were watching another station you would have heard it first on that one.

Those electronic news folks at Wichita are getting all pretzeled up over nothing. Who really cares? -td-

"Boy, the one I caught was this big," said one fisherman to another holding up his outstretched hands. I see now that they use that same approach to describe the size of colds. -td-

A report a while back told about a couple in the entertainment field who got engaged. No big deal, until the report included the fact she was still married. Huh!?

Moving to Norton from Hays went without incident. Well, almost. My son Todd and I (he was piloting the U-Haul) were somewhere north of Hill City on US-283 when a highway patrolman pulled us over. We were at a loss as to why. The patrolman said he noticed we weaved slightly over the center line a couple of times.

Of course our explanation was that we had a truck load of furniture and the winds were blowing hard out of the northwest and although that might have caused us to do such, we were unaware of that hap-

pening. He was very courteous and an asset to the guys who patrol our highways. Bringing those incidents to our attention might have made us even more aware of staying between the lines. -td-

For the record, my name (Dreiling) is pronounced "dryling." It is listed 152 times in the directories that cover this area of the state. No, it's not Irish. Try German. -td-

True story. I well remember when my niece Kathy was just a little thing, third grader, and she and her family moved into a new home. She met a little friend a few days into the new venture and asked her parents if she could invite her new friend to stay overnight that coming Friday. Her parents told her that they would visit with the girl's parents to make sure it was OK. It was OK, so on the appointed Friday evening they delivered their child to Kathy's home.

During the course of the evening the two little girls were watching television in the family room and carrying on a little girls' chat. Kathy asked her new friend what her daddy did for a living. "He's a teacher," the child answered. "That's nice," Kathy said. A few minutes later the new friend asked Kathy what her daddy did for a living. "He's a lawyer," Kathy said. "Honest?" asked the little friend. "No," said Kathy, "just one of the regular kind." -td-

I have some surprised friends. I finally picked the national collegiate football champs, something I have a very poor record of doing. Yea, Longhorns! -td-

As we embark on the weekend, don't forget to include church in your plans. -td-

Have a good evening...and a good weekend!

## Salary information helps citizens

Last week a friend complained to me about the newspapers printing of public employees' salaries. He felt it was wrong. His reasoning was the privacy of the individual. The reader felt the newspaper should have at least not printed the employee's name, only his or her position.

This is clearly not a place where HIPPA applies. This is not personal information, i.e. medical or bank account. The publishing of the name I suppose could be eliminated, but I find it amusing, when we live in a small town like we do. When you say the sheriff I know you mean Troy or Norton's superintendent is Greg. This information, name and salary, is public record information. It truly is my responsibility, as these people's employer, to see if their salary is competitive with other counties and if they are doing the work which warrants their salaries.

What may not be a matter of public record is the level of education and experience. In my mind, the addition of this information gives validity to their position and salary. We often stress the necessity of an education to young people and when we can back it up with facts it is that

### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



much more powerful. As a resident of this city, I think we have reason to be proud. We have qualified people doing their jobs. We have people with advanced degrees or professional

certification leading the way for us. Of course, some are more qualified, harder working and more accessible than others. But find any corporation, organization or small business and the same will be true.

Last year the newspaper had difficulty obtaining this information even though it is a matter of public record. This year, however, the entities brought forth the requested information readily. Something I think is admirable as well. Trust comes because we are trustworthy. Good exchange of ideas is the result of open door policies and common respect of one another. Just another reason to be proud to be a Nortonite.

## Here's your chance to become a column writer for The Telegram

The Norton Telegram is looking for column writers for its editorial pages. If you have opinions, ideas, views or would just like to comment on the world around you, give us a call at 877-3361. We'll ask you to submit a couple of

sample columns. Here's your opportunity to have your say and see your name in print. You can write about big, world-shaking events or what's happening on the farm. It's your choice.