

Trashing the park is not Norton-like

There is absolutely no reason for the skate board area at Elmwood Park to look like the accompanying pictures show. The "I-don't-care-attitude" the photos convey don't quite fit the picture of Norton we, as a newspaper, would rather reflect.

Those using the park should use the containers provided in which to put trash. There is no need to simply dump everything on the ground. And breaking up wooden picnic tables escapes comprehension. None of this is becoming a community like ours.

Who cleans up such messes? City employees. Should they have to? No, not if those who use the park use common sense. But when we fail to exercise the positive side of our brain, then this is what happens.

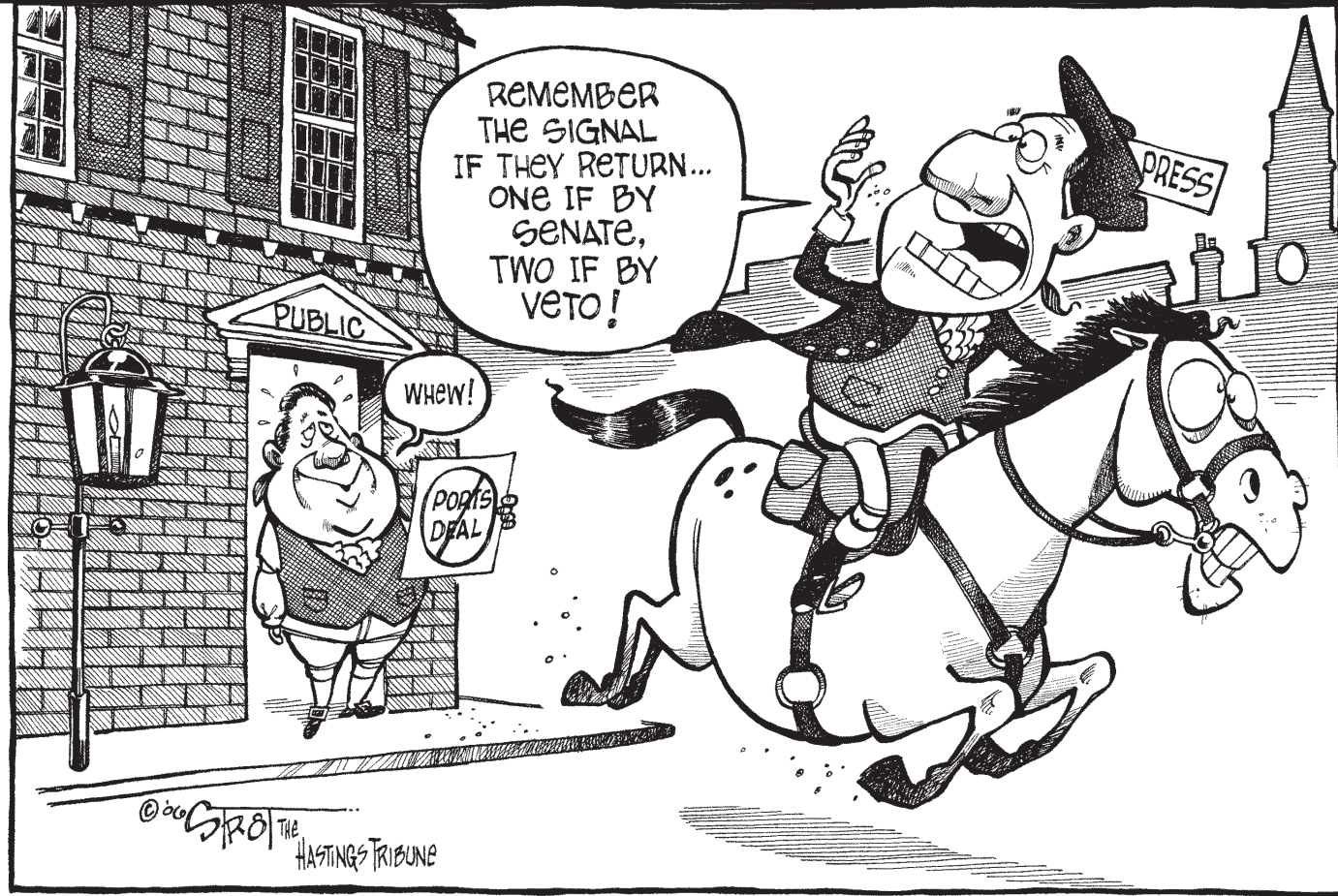
Dozens of empty soda bottles, empty cigarette packs, broken pieces of a picnic table littered the area the day a *Telegram* photographer, Carolyn Plotts, visited the park after a concerned resident brought it to her attention.

The resident said he talked with city crews who told him it was getting to be a common occurrence.

Let's see if we can perhaps funnel the energies it took to trash the place into keeping it looking like someplace we'd like to take the family, or as a place we would like to show visitors.

Come on, we can do a lot better than this!

—Tom Dreiling



We didn't learn to say the word 'bribe'

Dear Mrs. Stiles, (our Spanish teacher), We are doing fine in Mexico. We have been able to use many of the new words you taught us. However, there is an area we need to cover. How do you say, "bribe" in Spanish?

Hasta la vista,
Jim and Carolyn

During this last year, many people have donated good used clothing, toys and bedding for us to bring to Mexico. We came a day early just so we could take the load over to a couple of churches and families we know.

Our old brown van was loaded to the hilt. You couldn't have poked one more pair of socks in with a stick.

The crossing was going fine until a Mexican official flagged us over to an inspection area.

His English was about the same level

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



telling you how we got the clothes in, but just know we came back with an empty van.

—ob—

Being from Kansas, we know wind. But the wind in El Paso and Juarez has been especially vicious the last few days. We've seen metal roofs literally rolled up and blown away.

—ob—

Saturday afternoon we visited the family we are building for this week. Their home was nothing but a pallet and tarpaper shack with a little half gate for a door. It's only purpose seemed to be to keep the dogs out. It sure didn't keep the wind or the sand out.

When we explained we would return Monday to build her a house she hugged us and started to cry. I probably can't explain any better than that about why we keep coming back.

as our Spanish. But, the gist of the conversation included the words, "You can't take in used clothes. Unless, maybe, you pay the tax. Understand?"

At the moment we didn't "understand." But, after we turned around and were being questioned on the American side about what we were doing, those officials made it clear to us.

The first crossing guard would have looked the other way if we would have produced some money.

I'm not going to incriminate myself by

This program can make a difference

Many of you have heard the story I tell about returning to Norton. I graduated in 1964 and couldn't wait to move on to new adventures, but as one woman pointed out to me, many people didn't have to leave to find out how good it was here. I never professed to be a quick learner, but learn I did. And so when the opportunity arose after a 32 year hiatus, we came back.

In my mind I was coming back to the Norton of my childhood. I even would see people on the street and think, "Oh, there is such and such's father." And then after a second glance think, "Oh, my, that IS such and such". But the age of people wasn't all that had changed, so had the environment.

Few people in my class had divorced parents. Although alcohol was a problem in many families, only a handful were known to me and my friends as alcoholics and no one knew the danger of marijuana as the drug scene was only emerging in the cities and would make its way to Norton soon enough.

And meth, well it was an unknown. I think we had one police car and half again the population. The Sheriff's department

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



cause I think it reminds each of us of the responsibility we have to ourselves and each other and, in turn, to the community. In response to the need, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Norton County has received a grant from the Safe and Drug Free Schools to provide an after-school program for children K-7th grade.

This "Too Good for Drugs" weekly program is offered at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesdays in Almena and on Thursdays in Norton and will also be presented in Lenora. We welcome all to come and discover how drug prevention programs have gone beyond the "Just Say No" to teaching healthy choices and learning healthy behaviors.

Will this make a difference? There are no guarantees, but doing nothing certainly is not beneficial. We must do all we can to promote positive life style choices and this is one way to help. Please join us in our endeavor to maintain a safe and drug free environment for everyone.

Please encourage children to attend and adults who are interested in the program are welcome to come serve as "extra hands". For more information please call (785) 874-4200.

was a one man operation.

I soon learned I had not moved back to my hometown of now over 40 years ago.

Things have changed. Over 10 percent of the children in our county live in poverty; many live in single parent homes and drugs and alcohol have had their impact upon our community. What has ravaged the soul of rural northwest Kansas...drugs.

It isn't just the town drunk anymore, but it is people once thought of as "respectable" who are either making their money selling or are hooked and selling to support their habit. Abandoned farms provide a perfect opportunity for "entrepreneurs".

I frequently repeat the phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child." I repeat it be-

Here is why I voted against SB-264

I would like to defend my vote against SB-264. In my opinion, this bill would have adversely affected our community banks, and that is why I voted against it.

This bill would have changed the public funds investment policy in Kansas by allowing out-of-area banks to hold idle public funds. Many of our county treasurers and school boards feel that their hands are tied when it comes to finding institutions to invest their idle funds.

My feeling is that there is at least one community bank in each of my counties that can hold these public funds. I've always been a supporter of community banks. I think the wisdom of keeping Kansas taxpayers' money at work within

Senate Doings

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer



their taxing jurisdiction makes good business sense.

These community banks provide continual competitive interest rates for local governmental units, capital available for local development, and opportunities for economic activity that has the potential to generate tax revenues.

Allowing public funds to be invested in out-of-area banks could hurt our local economy. The impact of the loss in rural areas would be magnified by the fact that it would be much more difficult for borrowers in these areas to secure alternative funding resources.

This is especially vital for agricultural and small business purposes because of the lack of interest or expertise of lenders outside of the local market. John D. Wong, Ph.D., wrote a summary about the public funds investment policy for the Kansas Bankers Association and Community Bankers Association. After reading his article and contacts from community bankers in my district, I feel that I made the right decision.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Office hours:
8 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732
E-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Tom Dreiling editor and publisher
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Sherry Hickman circulation
Vicki Henderson computer production
Susie Marble computer production
Sonya Montgomery bookkeeping
Hypatia Day advertising

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

Incorporating the Norton County Champion
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor



Friday: Next 'Thumbs Up to...';

e-mail tom@nwkansas.com, or call 785 877-6908