

Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Speak out! It's time to take on sexual abuse

To the Editor,
 April is recognized across Kansas and the United States as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Sexual violence is a social problem of epidemic proportions. A woman is sexually assaulted every seven hours in Kansas and every two minutes in the United States. Every day women and children are violated and traumatized. The oldest reported rape victim was 96 years old and the youngest was five months. Sexual violence affects all of us and has severe impact on our families

and communities. Please join with Northwest Kansas Domestic & Sexual Violence Services, Inc., to raise awareness and work toward the elimination of sexual violence.
 If you are a victim or know one, please get help. You can contact us at 800-794-4624.
 It's about time to prevent sexual abuse. Speak out.
 Sincerely,
 Sue Merklein
 Sexual Assault Advocate
 Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

Immigration debate sparks this information

To the Editor,
 After reading your opinion, "Key word simply put is illegal," (*Telegram*, April 11, 2006), and listening as much as I can on the immigration debate, I offer the following information for every reader.

- If you are computer savvy, go into the following site: <http://www.usimmigrationagency.org> and take a look around the site. You will soon find out that every single piece of paper that a person wanting to immigrate or work in this country costs money, a lot of money and time. If you study and research more you will find out that most countries are limited to how many people can enter into the USA to work under H2A and other work visas unlike Mexico which has unlimited numbers. If you research even more you will find that Nebraska Service Center (which handles Kansas) is working on green card applications dated in 2002. New York Service Center is the only other center that is further behind, they are working on 2001. Just because you have a green card does not mean that you cannot be deported.
- If you enjoy fresh fruits, vegetables, beef and pork to eat, you need to thank the immigrant workers (whether he/she has a work visa or is illegal is immaterial) who works long hours with low wages so that we can have cheap food to eat and that our grocery stores have so much to offer the consumer. You also need to look at those that work to make our roads and bridges better, safer; the long hours of people who take care of children, clean houses, work at the hotels/motels/etc.

- The cost of a business to have legal immigrants work for them, the laws that they have to follow, the contracts for each worker and the financial cost to hire an immigrant is a maze that is unbelievable. Ask your local businesses that have had immigrants working for them and yes there is more than you think in Norton, Decatur and Phillips counties, along with the rest of northwest Kansas. Like with any business there are good folks and not so good folks whom they hire, but you take that chance when you do not know the people personally.
- If 11 million immigrants ever decide to organize themselves, even if just by country, then not work for one week, the mass confusion that could incur in this country would be mind-boggling. Hotel rooms would not get cleaned, laundry done, people taken care of, produce lay to rot or not get planted, meat not processed. Just think at the mass financial loss of each business times seven days times fifty states. An example of this was several years ago at a major airport (where) INS loaded up 220 illegal workers and the next day there was not a restaurant open at that airport because there was not a worker to do the work.

- Take the US citizenship test and see if you pass. They give an example of it on the above website. I have been told that as long as America has citizens that can not find work and there are people

who go hungry every day in America, America should not let ANY immigrants come to this country for work. My answer of course was this: there is not any reason why a person does not work in the USA, if able (not disabled) or go hungry. I was not excited about being a dishwasher and bartender either but the salary helped pay the bills. If you can find an unemployed American who would like to earn minimum wage and work 10+ hours a day during wheat harvest with one meal a day or to be at work at 4 a.m. to load pigs, or to be bent over to hand plant onions or hand pick watermelons in 100+ degree heat, then good luck to you. There just are not enough Americans who want to do the manual labor that legal/illegal immigrants do, period.

Now I need to express thoughts on the other side of this issue.

√I believe, regardless of what type of work visa an immigrant applies for, that each person is required to pay federal, state and local taxes.

√That a fee for health insurance is taken out of each paycheck for themselves and if they have family then for each member. If they do not have any claims at the end of their work time, the money is given back to the workers. We are not obligated to take care of these people medically any more than if you were in another country. Look online for what happens to you if you are in another country and get sick or injured (scared me when we went to South Africa). The amount of taxpayer dollars spent on the immigrants (legal or illegal) is astonishing.

√When the person enters into the country, there are immunizations given, social security numbers given and entered into the system along with identification cards issued with vital information on it.

√To enter this country you have to pass a verbal and written test to read and speak English fluently (at least at the 8th grade level which is what government letters are supposed to be written in). This would eliminate the need for bilingual teachers, paraprofessionals (school districts would save huge dollars in their budgets). Then there is the cost of cities/states wanting to change the official language to Spanish (do you realize that three-quarters of the population in Texas and Florida are of Spanish/Mexican descent and it has been proposed to change the official language to Spanish? It did not pass).

√If you are not a US citizen, even if your child is born here, does not make them a US citizen; the only way to become a citizen is to follow the steps outlined by INS/Homeland Security.
 √Maybe we should require, like Canada, that you have \$10,000 in a savings account before you can start the immigration process.
 This is my opinion and 3+ years of working with INS/Homeland Security. I hope this gets some people to think outside the box.
 Denise Schmitz-Deetlefs
 Almena
(Due to space limitations, this letter was cut. —The Editor)

A simple twist of words...



The Trojan Cafe in Logan made its county's name, Phillipsburg, into a tasty treat with a simple play on words.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

City looks at what can lower sewer plant costs

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 He said that would lower the cost be about \$500,000. A redesign of one of the other buildings will be done to include the office, restroom and lab area. All of the changes, he said, lowered the price by about \$1 million.
 • Approved the engineering service agreement with Miller and Associates for the water treatment plant renovation project.
 • Heard from Councilman Jerry Jones that it really upset him that

there was so little interest shown in the last election. He said the people elected will do a good job, but a way needed to be figured out to get people more interested in being involved with local government.
 • Heard from Councilman Ron Briery that he would like to know how much it would cost to put millings on and double chip seal the area where the city dumps its snow to make a parking lot. He asked if Mr. Lawson could also look into finding a new place to put

the snow.
 • Heard from Mayor David Corns that he signed a proclamation declaring April as Fair Housing Month.
 • Gave Mr. Lawson permission to advertise for a Maintenance I or II position.
 • Learned from Mr. Lawson that April 24, 25 and 26 will be the city-wide cleanup.
 • Heard from Mr. Lawson that the city made \$3,011 for the vehicles and other items that sold at

the surplus auction.
 • Learned that John Haas of Ranson Financial Consultants will have the electric rate study finished soon. When asked, he said the reason people's last electric bills were higher than the month before was because the city had to generate power, which, with the cost of natural gas and diesel fuel, costs more than to buy power.
 • Approved Alisha Stark's request for 30 feet of sidewalk replacement at 314 N. Graves.

The famous visit Almena

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 son, and started the process of memorization.

Behind the scenes, parents/guardians were busy rounding up costume ideas and materials to outfit their child. The Wax Museum was originally scheduled for March 21. "We were fortunate to receive some much-needed snow, which caused us to postpone the event to March 31," said Mr. Tharman.

In the early afternoon, the students donned their attire and performed their "living" wax museum to the members of the Long Island community and the junior high school. That evening, they again lined up in the hallowed halls of history to tell their stories to the public in Almena at the student/faculty

games. Not all students were able to attend the evening performance due to prior commitments.

The students and the person they portrayed were: Kenzi Husted, Clara Barton; Kynzie Stevens, Robert E. Lee; Dillon Hogan, Davy Crockett; Gunnar Hays, Ronald Reagan; Austin Herman, Abraham Lincoln; Daniel Field, Daniel Boone; Ashley Constable, George Washington; Sarah Whitney, Sarah Winchester; Zane Miller, Sitting Bull; Melissa Hawks, Amelia Earhart; Tyler Montgomery, Wild Bill Hickok; Savannah King, Anne Frank; Cassie Field, Elizabeth Cady Stanton; Calen Bach, Henry Ford; and Kelsey Raburn, Mary Chestnut.

Board hires temporary help

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 The board said the position would be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"We want you to do everything you are capable of doing," Mr. Eveleigh said when she asked what her duties would be.

Mrs. Grysch said she was fine with \$7 an hour and could start Monday.

The board hired her. "We're thrilled you stepped forward," said board member Elaine Mann.

In other business, the board:
 • Appointed board members Donna Foley and Gayle James to go through the computer and paper files to get everything organized. They will find out who had grant applications and the projects being worked on, so that everything could be continued.
 • Adopted Resolution 2006-01

to get insurance through KCAMP, the county's insurance provider. The board also signed an interlocal agreement to that effect.

• Discussed where to advertise for the open director's position.

Many services offered for Easter Sunday

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 Church.

Easter Communion Service, 11 a.m., Norton First Baptist Church.
 Easter Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Norton Trinity Episcopal Church.
 God's Pantry, 3 p.m., Norton Trinity Episcopal Church.
 Easter Cantata, 7 p.m., Luctor Reformed Christian Church.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NORTON Senior High:	
Tuesday	— Dance Practice, 7 a.m.; FCCLA Food Drive begins; Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Norton Invitational Golf, 9 a.m.; Junior Varsity Golf at Goodland; Cheer, a.p.; Varsity Track at Plainville, 4 p.m.
Wednesday	— Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Fort Hays State University Art Show, 8:30 a.m.; Job Olympics at Phillipsburg, 9 a.m.; SAC, a.p.; Site Council, 5 p.m.; Dance Tryouts, 5 p.m.
Thursday	— State Technology Competition at Manhattan, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Kay Election, a.p.; FFA NW District Banquet at Hill City, 4:30 p.m.
Friday	— Jazz, a.p.; Varsity Golf at Hill City, 3 p.m.; Varsity Track at Phillipsburg, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday	— Regional Speech Festival at Smith Center; Forensics at Quinter, 7:30 a.m.; FFA Chapter Banquet at Junior High Gym, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday	— Kay Social, 3:30 p.m.
Next Monday	— Jay Singers, a.p.; Grade 9 and 10 Track at Hill City, 4 p.m.
Junior High:	
Tuesday	— Eighth Grade Parent Meeting, Music Room, 7 p.m.
Thursday	— Track at Hill City, 10 a.m.
Next Monday	— Sixth Grade Parent Meeting in High School Music Room, 7 p.m.
Eisenhower:	
Tuesday	— School Resumes, Section B Kindergarten Reports, 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday	— Team Meeting, 3:40 p.m.
Thursday	— Grade 5 and 6 Level Meeting, 7:30 a.m.; Grade 1 and 2 Vocal Concert, Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Next Monday	— No Morning Early Childhood Development;

Thursday	— Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, fruit cocktail, milk; Lunch: Potato boats, baked beans, fruit cocktail, whole wheat roll, milk
Friday	— Breakfast: Canadian bacon/cheese biscuit, apple juice, milk; Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, Little Smokies, mixed veggies, rosy applesauce, French bread, milk
NORTHERN VALLEY	
Monday	— No School; Dance Team Meeting, Parents Welcome, 6:30 p.m.; Post Prom Meeting at Almena in the Lunchroom, 7 p.m.
Tuesday	— High School Golf Tournament at Osborne, 2 p.m.; High School Track, Husky Invitational at Logan, 3 p.m.
Wednesday	— Job Olympics at Phillipsburg, 8:30 a.m.
Thursday	— Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Track at Hill City, 10 a.m.; KSDE ITV Updates at Fort Hays State University in Hays, 1:30-4 p.m.; FFA District Banquet at Hill City, 4:30 p.m.
Friday	— High School Track at Osborne, 3 p.m.
Saturday	— Regional Speech and Drama Meet; 9-12 Grade Prom at Almena in the High School Auditorium, Gym Viewing-3:30 to 5 p.m.; Banquet-6:30 p.m.; Dance-9 p.m. to midnight; Post Prom in the Big Gym, 12:30 to 5 a.m.; Norton FFA Banquet, 7 p.m.
Northern Valley Menus:	
Monday	— No School
Tuesday	— Breakfast: Monkey bread, sausage patty, fruit punch, cereal assortment; Lunch: Burrito, tossed salad, corn, tapioca pudding
Wednesday	— Breakfast: Ham-n-chef bagel, fruit cup, cereal assortment; Lunch: Grilled chicken sandwich with barbecue sauce, potatoes, green beans, fruity Jell-O
Thursday	— Breakfast: Peanut butter/jelly sandwich, applesauce, cereal assortment; Lunch: Wiener wagons, French fries, broccoli with cheese sauce, peach slices
Friday	— Breakfast: Cinnamon coffeecake, ham slice, cereal assortment; Lunch Hot beef sandwich, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, pineapple chunks

ARE YOU CONSIDERING BANKRUPTCY?

News accounts concerning recent changes to bankruptcy laws have often been misleading. Many people think they can no longer take bankruptcy. That is simply wrong. Experts in the bankruptcy field believe that up to 85% of those eligible for Chapter 7 bankruptcy prior to the new laws are still eligible, even with the changes.

If you are considering bankruptcy, call my office for an appointment to determine if you qualify. This conference is free!

Gene F. Anderson • Attorney at Law
 1400 Main • Hays, Kansas 67601
 785-625-6519

We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code