

Another scam aimed at the elderly

Those maggots of manure, better known as scumbags, or scammers, are at it again. This time they are targeting Medicare beneficiaries. They always go to the least able to do their dirty work.

These scam sickies do all they can to pry the bank account numbers and other numbers out of their potential victims. At this point in time they are playing on the confusion surrounding the Medicare Part D prescription drug program. For a fee of \$350, they will sell you a new Medicare card. After they've got your bank account number then 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 cash payment. If you get such calls, quickly hang up and call the Kansas Insurance Department at 1-800-432-2484, or Medicare at 1-877-772-3379.

If you have parents on Medicare, please instruct 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 number, credit card number, Medicare number, and 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 closely monitor those who place their trust in us.

—Tom Dreiling

FROM THE MAILBAG:

Kennedy is settled in and doing well

The Telegram has had several people inquire as to the status of Kenney Leiker since his move from Norton to Hays some weeks ago. We are happy to share the following note from his family:

To the Editor, and People of Norton,

There are not enough words to express the gratitude the Leiker family has for the citizens of Norton and the surrounding area for taking such good care of our brother Kenneth for the many years he lived and worked in Norton.

We really do appreciate all the kindness and assistance you extended to him. He will miss you all because over the years you have been very important and close

to him.

We are very excited to have him home with us. His nieces and nephew enjoy him so much and are looking forward to spending time with him. We are going to attempt to take care of him as well as you all have while he lived in Norton.

He seems to be happy to be home and is doing well.

Allen and Marie Leiker
Duane and Joyce Leiker
Dean Leiker

(Anyone wanting to send a note to Kenney can do so by using this address: Kenney Leiker, c/o Allen F. Leiker, 1886 250th Ave., Hays, KS 67601-9458)

Why destroy those beautiful trees?

To the Editor,

In light of the destruction — albeit nature or manmade — occurring around the world today, it seems wantonly to destroy perfectly healthy, beautiful trees because they're "messy." And I have driven past the trees in question and can't figure out how they are a traffic problem.

Let's not sacrifice beauty for inconvenience. In the words of Joyce Kilmer: "Only God can make a tree." And in the words of Pat Ambrosier: "But man seems bent on destroying everything."

Respectfully,

Pat Ambrosier
Almena

LETTER RULES:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and daytime phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We do not publish form letters or letters

about topics which do not pertain to our area.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read for form and style, clarity, length and legality.

We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

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Little summer 'whirlwind' returns home

The house has a hollow sound since a little seven-year old is not there to fill it.

I don't know how a month went by so quickly but, it is gone and Taylor has been reunited with her family. During her time with us, I may have created a monster. Taylor came to enjoy her notoriety. Most people she met would say, "So, are you the Taylor we read about in the paper?"

And she would pipe up, "Yes, I am."

It even got to the point where she would ask, "G'ma are you going to write about that in the paper?" So, I think she may be a little bit of a "glory hound".

Her mother met us in Wichita for the "swap." And, their reunion was a beautiful sight. Kara was waiting for us at the motel door and Taylor was out of her booster seat before I stopped the car.

She was calling, "Mommy, Mommy," as soon as she saw her mother. And, I don't think Kara quit hugging and kissing Taylor for about five minutes. Yes, a month may have been a little too long — for both sides. It was fine with me, but I don't think the other two parties will ever

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



do that again.

Taylor was like a magpie. Trying to tell her mother everything she had done over the month. It was like a machine gun; she couldn't talk fast enough. Finally, exhausted from listening, Kara said, "Taylor, please. Can you be still for just one minute?"

Later, Taylor wanted her mom to see that she knew how to play solitaire. Kara, then, showed all of us how to play "Kings in the Corners," a version of solitaire where there can be more than one player. Taylor, of course, picked it right up, but G'ma wasn't quite so quick and I missed a play when it was my turn.

Taylor immediately saw my mistake and said, "Grandma, you have to pay at-

tention." Then, using her hand and fingers in a spell-binding motion in front of my eyes she said, "Focus. Focus."

Boy, am I going to miss her.

-ob-

This heat has been brutal. I don't know how people stand to work outside in it. Well, they don't, I guess. I heard on the news that dozens of people have died from heat-related causes.

I warn Jim to be careful. He's still finishing up a house with brick and new siding. But, at least, he quits early in the afternoon to avoid the worst of it.

-ob-

I feel a little guilty sitting in my air conditioned office. But, I get over it real quick.

-ob-

The baby watch is still on for Jennifer's baby. But, we know that she will definitely be born by Thursday. So, we are leaving for San Antonio on Saturday. That will give everyone a day or two at home before we get there. Oh, I found out the middle name: Aniston Paige. We'll call her Annie for short. I like it.

You just can't keep a good man down

A couple of months ago, we did a little investigative reporting about the barber situation in Norton. The net effect being BOZIE was found. He had been ill, but as he told me, "You can't keep a good man down!"

I know Bozie has considered retiring. Retirement is a subject that has been much on my mind because not only did a lot of teachers at the Norton schools retire this year but so did Andbe Home Director of Nursing Jackie Rutherford, Doctor Hartley, the Reverend Jack Kersenbrock, and Colby Community College Nursing Instructors Rita Speer and Carol Otter just to name a few.

We read the stories about the retiring teachers with interest. My favorite was Mr. Poage's. His view of education and his ideas of what a community and a school system ought to be doing to bring out the best in young people should be assigned reading for teacher education everywhere. Also for Parent Education, if only there was such a thing!

I did not know until this spring how much Mr. Poage's work at the junior high meant to daughter Kate. As a transfer student in the seventh grade she told me the impact the groups he organized for the kids had on her. "He worked so hard to get kids out of their cliques and to be accepting of others," she said.

When I informed her someone told me they no longer do those groups. Kate, now an educator herself, said she wasn't sur-

Back Home

Nancy Hagman



prised. "I wouldn't like it if kids were getting pulled out of my classes to go to something like that," she said. The irony is almost more than I can handle!

An aside: the years Kate spent in junior high were not easy but then how easy are the junior high years for anyone? However, for me as a parent many, many things about the Norton Junior High were a revelation. It was just the way a school was supposed to be. Besides Mr. Poage, I credit Mr. Mann, who was the principal; all the teachers; and the secretary Paula Strayer.

I think that people who are really super at their jobs should not be allowed to retire! Even worse than the retirements is the fact that some of these people are leaving Norton. Come on, what are you thinking? Sure we left, but here's a little tip, the impact will not really hit until you buy the first car tags in another county and have to cover up the NT. It's going to hurt!

We attended the 50th anniversary party for Jack and Jane Kersenbrock. Jack, al-

ready supposedly retired, has been the pastor at the Lenora United Parish for several years now. This celebration originally was to be his "Okay now I am really retired" celebration also. But happily for his congregation, he is continuing for another year.

I thought Jane might be disappointed, but she said, "After his sermon this morning I am not sure I want him to ever retire." What an appropriate expression of love for a 50th Anniversary. Jane knows Jack has a calling. You can retire from the work-day world but you can't retire from your calling. I attended Jackie Rutherford's retirement party. Her husband said they will get along just fine as long as she does what he says. Retirement is an adjustment.

Being married to a farmer I only hope we live long enough for the bank to let us retire. Like Jane, I am not sure I want my husband to retire. Like the Rutherford's we will get along fine if he does what I say. Realistically I don't see that happening (in either case)! So I have an idea that a few old cows and a little field of wheat or hay will always be in our lives.

Good luck to all the retirees! I am certain they will all find ways to contribute to making the world a better place, no matter where they choose to live. Sometimes retirement just means getting to do what you love to do. Like cutting hair or farming or ministering to a congregation. You can't keep a good man down!

Don't forget Friday is 'Thumbs Up to ...' day.
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