

## Exaggerations distort the facts

Dear Editor;

Broadband construction activities of Rural Telephone (RTS) and its wholly owned subsidiary, Nex-Tech (NT), came under criticism recently as Gary Shorman, President/CEO, Eagle Communications (a Cable Television provider in Hays), testified at a Congressional hearing. Mr. Shorman made exaggerated claims before the House subcommittee and to the press in an effort to distort the facts of RTS/NT's Broadband Stimulus construction initiative, in an unsuccessful attempt to stop the funding. In one such claim, Mr. Shorman stated that while the government was using taxpayers' money to fund an overbuild in Hays, Eagle's own Broadband Stimulus Fund Application, for truly unserved areas, was denied.

The following are facts that cannot be disputed:

- Fact: RTS/NT is bringing \$101 million to western Kansas that would have gone to another state.

- Fact: \$51.6 million of these funds was a loan that must be paid back to the federal government with interest.

- Fact: These funds will be used to bring new and improved broadband service to 21 communities, 26 remote rural areas, and 335 anchor institutions such as libraries, hospitals, health clinics, law enforcement, schools, senior centers, and disability centers.

- Fact: Hays is included in the 4,600 square mile project, but is only 8 square miles, which is less than one-half of one percent of the project. Including Hays protects the taxpayers' investment, providing a feasible, sustainable project, serving a wider rural coverage area.

- Fact: In one of Eagle's Broadband Stimulus Applications (Round 2 Application ID 7603), they proposed service to 12 communities they claimed were unserved. Seven public responses were filed on their application indicating that in fact, seven communities were already served by broadband, in some cases, with speeds up to 100 Mbps.

- Fact: RTS/NT's broadband initiative will provide free broadband connections and free Wi-Fi to 30 libraries in rural communities, providing Internet access to those who would not otherwise have access.

- Fact: RTS/NT's broadband initiative is creating hundreds of jobs in western Kansas.

- Fact: Over 2,000 remote, rural customers have already been connected to the new service and are enjoying the benefits of high-speed broadband service.

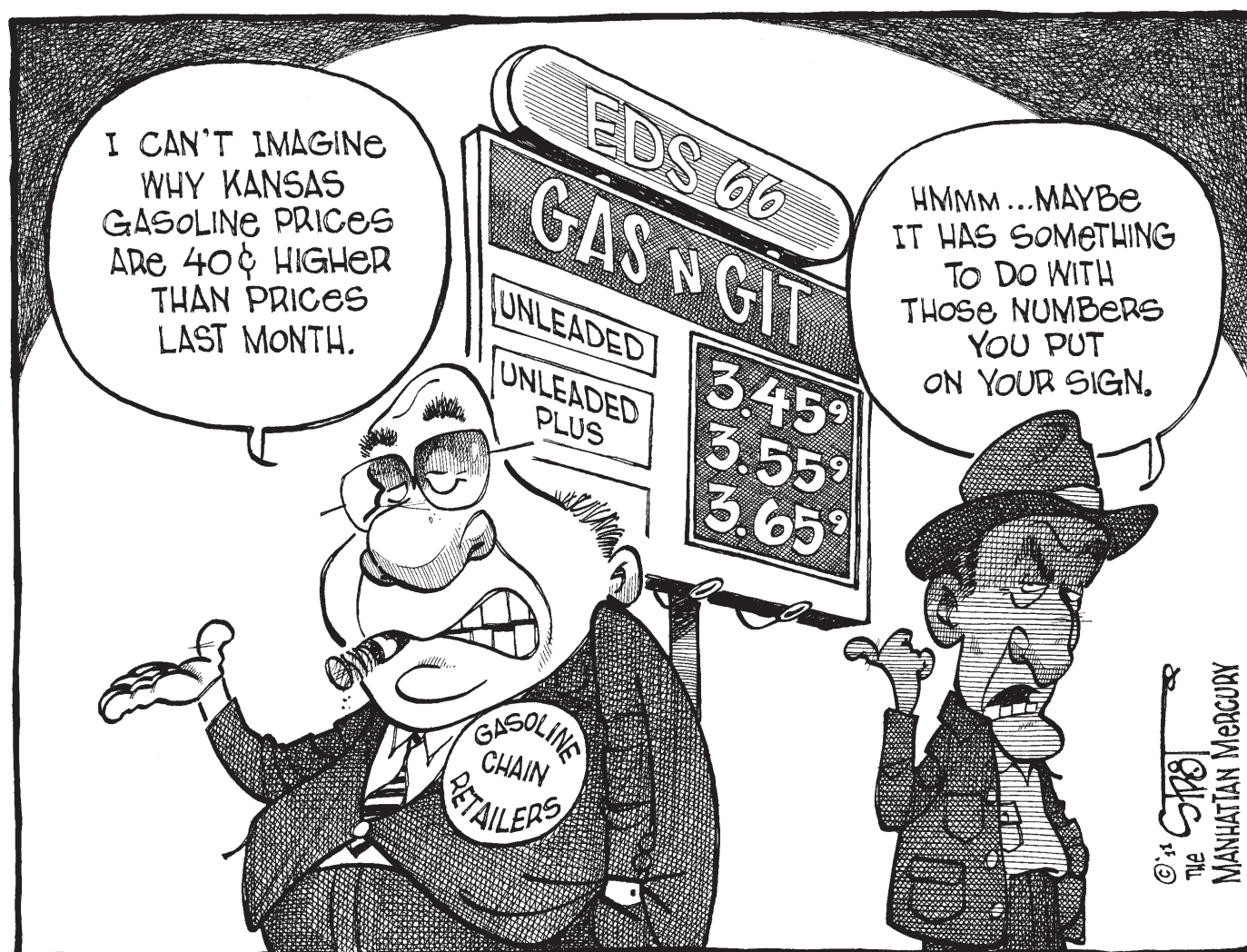
- Fact: Over the past 60 years, RTS/NT has invested \$149 million in loans and \$140 million of equity capital to improve telecommunication services in rural western Kansas.

- Fact: Since 1998, RTS/NT has been investing loan funds and equity capital in broadband facilities in western Kansas, creating economic opportunities and job growth.

In the first year of the three-year initiative, RTS/NT has already completed 35% of the project. When completed, broadband service will have been made available to over 39,000 residents and businesses in over 9,300 square miles of some of the most remote rural areas of western and north central Kansas. This project means more jobs for the local economy. Many residents will be able to create and build their own businesses, as we have already seen as a result of new high-speed broadband services. It would be impossible to overestimate our project's dramatic, positive impact on the commerce, public safety, and quality of life for residents of western Kansas. This is about tapping the power of the American spirit through job creation, wise investment, innovation, and risk taking, powered by capital and financial accountability.

Now, you know the rest of the story.

Larry E. Sevier, CEO  
Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech



## Worry and fear hit home in many ways

Our favorite commercial is one for Traveler's Insurance: where the dog searches for a safe place for his bone. In the background, a blue's singer croons, "Trouble, trouble, trouble, trouble. Trouble been doggin' my soul since the day I was born. Worry, worry, worry, worry. Worry just will not seem to leave my life alone."

The dog gets some insurance and sleeps soundly. Our dog must have Traveler's because she definitely sleeps soundly, during the day---we usually do not know why she spends her nights wailing at the moon. Though last night, judging by the odor, she encountered a skunk

The Hubby and I have several kinds of insurance from several carriers. But sometimes we still have trouble and worries. When it gets to the point we have problems sleeping we remind each other of the dog!

Did worry help him? Does it help us? Something about that dog is a reality check. We think about what we can and cannot control, evaluate if we are doing all we can to manage our risks, and consider how much worry distracts us from living a joyful life.

The earthquake in Japan brings this

### This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



lesson home. No matter how tirelessly we prepare do we own anything that could not be taken from us? If we were faced with nuclear disaster, lost all our possessions, or loved ones or our own lives where would our consolation be? Would a Traveler's Agent, with check in hand, restore the thing most needed: peace of mind?

Many are searching to find reason for the recent rash of catastrophic earthquake events. A panel of scientists on one news show thoroughly debunked some of the popular theories. It does not have anything to do with climate change. It may not even be a particularly significant group of events. It only seems so because it is happening in our memory.

It is human nature to look for patterns one scientist said, but in truth nature is random. The only pattern is most of these events happened in the "Ring of Fire"; an

area of extreme volcanic activity below the Earth's crust.

The Preachers study their Bibles. Are the end times upon us? Certainly God advises us to be watchful but also admonishes: no one knows the day or the hour! Such speculation has always seemed to me to be pointless worry. Worry, that chips away at Faith. Worry that "just will not seem to leave my life alone."

There are doubtless those who think people afflicted with loss, whether it be from an earthquake or any other thing did something to deserve it.

As I study my Bible I'm struck by Matthew 5:45: For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

The second part of this verse is often used to explain why everyone has trouble and worry. Perhaps we should think more about the first part. "FOR HE GIVES HIS SUNLIGHT TO BOTH THE EVIL AND THE GOOD"

Every moment spent worrying deprives us of God's gift. Look around and do what you can to help those with trouble. Insure what you can. And be thankful everyday for the sunlight.

## Good news from family in Japan

I cannot begin to thank people enough for all their calls and inquiries about the safety of our son and his family in Japan.

I am thankful first and foremost for their safety and feel great anguish for those who have lost so much. One picture taken above Sendai as the tsunami rushed in has haunted me. A young girl, about the age of our five year old granddaughter, Ashley, clings to her mother as they helplessly watch and hear the roar of tsunami waters rushing beneath them. I cannot imagine.

In Tokyo where our son and his family live, the earthquake was strong, but did little damage. They are fortunate as their building swayed with the 9.0 earthquake, which as I understand means it is built to earthquake standards. Our son, never at a loss for humor, told me after three days

### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



of rolling motion it was a bit like living on Jello.

Secondly I am grateful to a son who called us immediately after the earthquake, in fact even before CNN coverage began. He told his Dad, "We've just had a strong earthquake, but we are all home and safe." Thank you, God. If I had turned on the TV and seen the devastation, even though it was not from Tokyo, I would have started my worry vigil.

Watching the orderly conduct of the

Japanese citizens and their incredible resolve helped me to better understand why my son is proud to call this far away country home. He speaks of the almost absence of crime in Tokyo and the news media has spoken of the lack of looting in the earthquake stricken areas.

Many attribute this to one thing, national pride. I know our son is incredibly proud of the people of his adopted country and their response to this national disaster. He spoke briefly of coming home, but after twelve plus years, a wife and child, home is there. His job, his friends, his life may be challenged now, but he knows he and his fellow countrymen will respond and they will resume their lives and when necessary forge new paths.

As a Japanese proverb says, 'Fall seven times; stand up eight'.



Thank you Tom and Diana Montoia for your service to the community for so many years. We'll miss you! Emailed in.

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★ **U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran**, Russell Senate Office Building Room C-4, Washington, D.C. 20002. moran.senate.gov/public/ (202) 224-6521

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM  
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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

Kansas Press Association

