

Editor

Carlleen

Bell

THE NORTON ELEGRAM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2011 PAGE 4

An apology for being human

Thank you for your comments,

I want to offer an apology to everyone Managing affected by the incorrect headline in the Tuesday, Sept. 13 edition of the Norton Telegram, which read "Agreement to cost city \$2.3 million in fees."

When I did the math on a calculator for how much the agreement will cost the city, I admit that I did not look at the

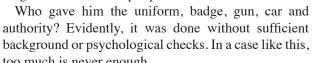
numbers closely enough and read it with one more digit than should have been there. The number should have read \$231,450. That was my error and I take full responsibility.

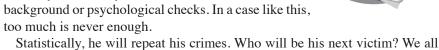
I also want to thank the city leaders who reasonably and respectfully pointed out to me that I had made an error and, justifiably, asked that the newspaper print a correction. I understand that city leaders would like to see the correction on the front page of today's edition, but like almost every newspaper in the nation, we run our corrections/retractions on the inside pages. I challenge you to find a newspaper that prints corrections on the front page. Perhaps some do, but they are few and far between.

For the readers who have been less than reasonable and respectful in pointing out the error, I thank you for your comments and trust that your record of never having made an error in your lifetime will hold true for the remainder of your

An outraged community

Once again, the powers that be have twisted the law around to avoid any culpability in the recent plea bargain with the ex-cop rapist.





pray it isn't someone we know so we don't have to feel as guilty. We have a multitude of laws to protect the law-breakers and sadly, very few

to protect or aid his victims. Studies show that the most therapeutic action for the victim is being able to

confront their attacker, which has been denied through the plea bargain.

Since there wasn't a conviction or a confession, they have tried to close the door for any civil action on behalf of the victims.

So who will bear the cost of a the counseling and therapy these victims need? Who will try to give them back a sense of security and peace of mind? Who will be there when they have a panic attack when they have a chance meeting in a busy store or when he drives by to torment them even further?

They claim to have a protection order in place against him, (but) will that top the attack or relieve the terror they will feel?

I don't know many of the answers to these questions but I do know that their solution doesn't, either.

Maybe that was the master plan?

Bruce Chambers Norton, Kan.

Letters

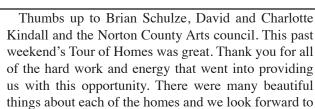
to the

Editor



I agree with Pat Ambrosier-what a farce! Two women who live in our area were beaten, sodomized and raped. Thanks to the Norton County justice system they will live the rest of their traumatized lives knowing that their assailant walked free with a pat on his head and a "now play nice" for a warning. Unbelievable!

> Robert Bruinekool Lenora



taking part in the tour next year. Emailed in.

Thumbs up to Jim Rowh for sharing his stories and photos from his mission trip to Africa with us all. May God bless you. Called in

THE NORTON

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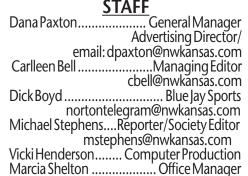
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The different ways we decorate our lives

A member of our quilter's group told of her visit to an almond farm in California. Most places they call them amonds but the nuts are harvested by shaking the trees. And almond farmers claim they shake the "L" out of them!

Her impression was that amond farmers do pretty well. Exhibit one: the beautiful, ultra modern home!

Approaching retirement, the wife wanted to move to town. So the husband let her do whatever she wanted with the house to entice her to stay.

Most of our friends are approaching retirement. And many are in the "let's fix up the house" mode.

I did it six years ago when we moved. One's priorities in a house at fifty-something are different than they are at 30. For instance: a full bathroom on the ground level of our house was important, but we were not quite ready to make things fully handicapped accessible.

We recycled most of the carpeting. It was old but had held up well. Midwesterners tend to be frugal.

More so than Californians I've

Reportedly the decor of the almond grower's house was almost stark. And while my friend admired it, she just kept repeating, "She didn't have any stuff!"

Every piece of furniture, each accessory was carefully chosen and placed. There was nothing personal: no pictures, no magazines, NO

This Too Shall Pass Nancy

Hagman QUILTS!!!

I'd describe my friend's house as a country home; sort of rustic, with 'primitive" accents. It is cozy and welcoming. She has quilts and pillows and baskets and stuff. Who doesn't have stuff? Besides amond growers?

My friend is in redecorating mode. As she says, this needs to be done now because one: the carpets are 3O plus years old and two: If we wait much longer we won't be able to do it ourselves.

Midwesterners tend to be do-it-yourselfer's also!

family who moved into a new home in the past year. Rather than move any furniture or accessories they had a tag sale and bought everything new, even pots, pans, bedding and dishes. These folks have money, no doubt. But I can't help but think they lack something! Call it an ability to value their history.

Even if I could start over there are lots of things I would keep. The-yo-yo quilt from my mom's hope chest, circa 1941. My green dishes. The record cabinet. All the old dressers. My Duncan-Phyfe table. The hubby. A lot of old stuff is still useful and I'm used to it!

My friend is looking at her house and wondering--what would my life be like if all the clutter was gone? We've all played that mental game. What one thing would you want if shipwrecked on a desert island? What would you risk your life to grab from a burning

Of course, the We can lose all our things (many have) but things can be replaced. You can't replace people.

Sometimes we treat people as causally as we do things. We have a yard sale. We throw relationships away when they lose their shine or get a scratch or dent. We are constantly shopping, looking for something better. Even after we make a purchase we keep the receipt and make note of where the returns department is.

On the other hand some are hoarders. They can't let go of anything; even things that are destructive.

At times we all are at one extreme or

Decorating our houses is a matter of taste. People with modern houses probably do not like clutter. Some of us like are sentimental and like antiques. Our needs change so we built a wheelchair ramp. We find a new sofa we just love, love, love!!!

Decorating our lives is different. We may start with love but E.E. Cummings said it best, "Be of a little more careful than anything." Take care, take very good care because people, we keep!

The comedy of political reality television

I don't know if I would say I am a Saturday Night Live (SNL) fan, but I do love their beginning monologue and the Week-end Update. Because of that though I have sometimes been watching a news item and suddenly thought I've turned to SNL. I can't always tell what the real thing is and what the comedy show is. Monday night I watched the CNN/tea party candidates debate and after listening to the audience decided I may not be alone in this dilemma.

In fairness, each candidate made some valid comments or recommendations. Ron Paul linked the mounting debt problem with wars initiated by Bush and continued by Obama. Bachmann attacked Texas Governor Rick Perry over his use of the government mandate for the HPV vaccine for young girls. In Perry's defense, he said it was an error on his part, but Bachmann's declaration of impropriety was, to my way of thinking, valid. If you oppose government control, you oppose government control, not just on

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



the issues supported by your campaign contributors.

There was no shortage of words or phrases meant to add drama. Perry called Social Security a "Ponzi scheme"; Gingrich accused Medicare and Medicaid as paying money to "crooks"; Perry also accused Ben Bernanke of treason. Drama, drama, and more drama.

Mitt Romney had the good sense to sit back and let the others hang themselves. The one problem he has is no stage appeal. Worry over whether you have stumbled upon a SNL episode is not a problem. Michele Bachmann had her usual problems with pulling

untrue statements out of her...hat. Rick Perry spent much of the night defending his positions with customary and uncompromising arrogance. Ron Paul probably has passion although it takes a while to wake it up. Former Utah Governor Jon Huntsman came across as more of a wanna be comedian than a politician, but then again maybe there isn't much of a difference. Newt Gingrich continued his unappealing approach to what he views as successful leadership. Herman Cain, former CEO of Godfather's Pizza, sounds the most apolitical. This leaves former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum. I'm trying to think of something to say, but maybe another time.

And to think the election is how many months away? We may not be any more politically savvy by November of 2012, but we might make great writers for a new series similar to SNL. God help us all. <mailto:mkwoodyard@ruraltel. net>mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

Letters to the Editor and Thumbs Up: e-mail dpaxton@nwkansas.com or to write 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654

Remember there is no charge for rendering a Thumbs Up. Thumps Up are meant to give recognition for a positive person or event in the community. Also remember all Letters to the Editor must be signed.