

## Small Business Saturday really is a big deal

In his Thanksgiving proclamation, President Washington began with the following words:

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor."

This week we should stop and give thanks to God for the many blessings we enjoy as Americans. I am thankful that despite the policy failings in Washington, we still live in the greatest nation on the face of the earth.

After gathering with family and friends to celebrate traditions, make memories, and give Thanks this week, your mind may shift to Christmas shopping. As you do, I want to call attention to key members of the small towns we call home - our small businesses. Not only do small business owners create jobs across the First District, but they are often our community leaders and our little league coaches as well.

Most small businesses employ fewer than 10 people. Many small business owners do their books late at night at the kitchen table after their kids have gone to sleep. They do not have an army of lawyers, accountants, and lobbyists to keep up with all of the changing rules and regulations coming out of Washington.

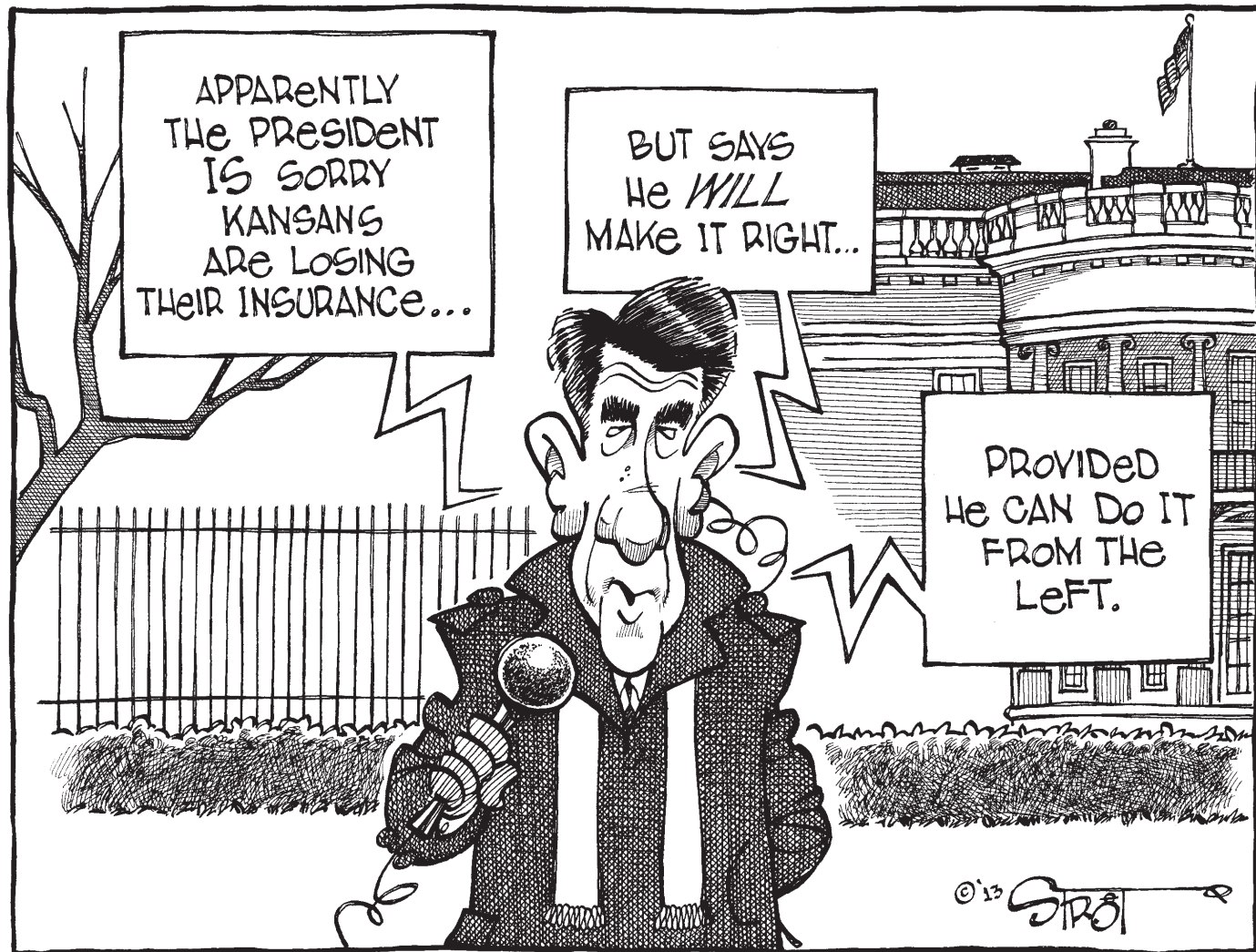
And far too often, Washington is more interested in what happens on Wall Street - rather than Main Street. And that is just backwards. Small businesses account for about half of the total economic activity in America. They create nearly two out of every three new jobs. They have historically led our nation back from recession. Strengthening our small businesses is vitally important to get our economy moving forward and putting millions of Americans back to work, many of whom have given up on finding a full time job.

As a member of the Small Business Committee, that's why I am sponsoring a bipartisan resolution in Congress to call attention to the importance of small businesses in our communities. It would denote the Saturday after Thanksgiving as "Small Business Saturday." It is only a symbolic measure, but it would serve as a reminder as to how important our small businesses are to our nation.

I also encourage you to join me in doing something more than symbolic. After giving Thanks on Thursday, please join me in shopping at a small business this Small Business Saturday. These businesses, their owners and employees, are the backbone of our American economy. Not big businesses. Not special interest lobbyists. And certainly not Washington.

May God bless and protect you, your family and our entire nation - both on Small Business Saturday -and the entire year.

Congressman Tim Huelskamp



## Remembering a great man lost too soon

Like most people I will never forget where I was when I heard President John F. Kennedy had been shot. A hush fell over the journalism class that day at Norton Community High School. Principal Gerald Travis announced the news.

It wasn't long before Mr. Travis returned to the PA system to tell us, "John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, has died." The pall which settled over the class that day and over the next few days was like nothing I had ever experienced.

The 1964 NCHS yearbook was dedicated to the young president and the yearbook students alluded to the President's dream of a new America. One that might take a lifetime to complete, he had said, and the time to start was now. The students noted JFK's dedication to the youth of the country, his commitment to civil rights, world peace, space exploration, the arts and more. The dedication ended with, "We must rid ourselves of hatred and begin again."

In 1960, Norton County was home

### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



achieved had he not been struck down on that fateful November day in Dallas.

I read a comment by CBS correspondent, Bob Schieffer. He assessed the loss in this way, "It was the weekend that America lost its innocence. The country has never been the same since that weekend in Dallas."

We realized, at that time, that at some very core part of our being, we were just like all the rest of the world. We could have leaders struck down; we could have dreamers lose sight of what good could come. We could sense fear.

At the January, 1961, State of the Union address, President Kennedy said, "Before my term has ended, we shall have to test anew whether a nation organized and governed such as ours can endure. The outcome is by no means certain." And on that cold day, we felt the uncertainty and faced our country's mortality, but prevail we did, in part, because of the hopes and inspiration of one John Fitzgerald Kennedy. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

to 8,035 people. Nearly 32% of Norton County residents voted for JFK, while 68% voted for Nixon. In 2012, 80.1% voted for Mitt Romney and 17.1% voted for Obama in our county of 5,671 people. What does this say? Well, maybe nothing, yet maybe it does. We are a much more divided country than we were in 1960 even with a Catholic candidate and the youngest presidential candidate ever. Obviously JFK's dream of a better America is exhibited in the very fact President Barack Hussein Obama has been elected twice.

The general consensus seems to be, it isn't what President Kennedy accomplished during his short presidency, but rather the hope of what he might have

## Keeping things in perspective makes it clear

I have not seen Michael J Fox's new television show. I did read a feature on him in the October 2013 issue of Good Housekeeping.

Fox, whose struggles with Parkinson's disease are well documented, says in the story, "...I always say, 'A lady had a baby in a tree,' which is based on a story about a woman in Mozambique whose village was flooded. She was pregnant and she was going into labor, so to save her baby, she climbed into a tree and gave birth."

Fox says it stuck with him. It stuck with me. I shared it with my quilting group early one morning.

As the day progressed, I complained; my water softener has not been working. My dishes look awful. My friends looked at me, "A lady had a baby in a tree!"

Someone's DVR doesn't work, in order to fix it they will have to dump all the stuff she has recorded! "A lady had a baby in a tree!" we reminded her!

Forgot to bring the right tools, sewing machine needle broke, cut a piece wrong from the last remnant of a fabric discontinued in 1998?

ALADY HAD A BABY IN A TREE!

### This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



It was a way to keep things in perspective especially so near to Thanksgiving.

A sidebar to Fox's story was "My 7 Life Lessons".

It is a theme for the season, perhaps. "John's World" by John Phipps, in the Mid-November issue of the Farm Journal had a similar gist.

His column was entitled "What I've Learned So Far". He writes a humorous column but many of his eight points were quite profound. All felt true, but none more so than the last one: "Listen closely----timeless wisdom can come from the most unlikely mouths".

John accompanied his four year old grand-daughter to a park. He was to catch her as she exited a corkscrew tube. Half way down he could tell from the noise that something had gone awry

and "she rolled head over heels out the bottom of the slide. Before I could pick her up she bounced to her feet and began furiously straightening her little dress and pushing back her hair from her face."

John's anxiously inquired about her well-being. She assured him she was fine. Then "...she turned to look me straight in the eye. Mimicking her remarkable mother's exact tone and words, she instructed me gently but firmly, 'Remember Grandpa. Nobody wants to see your underpants.'"

Fox and Phipps got me to thinking about what I've learned.

What we perceive as important changes with our age and stage of life. There is also great deal of difference between knowing something is true and putting it into practice.

Still in all, for me nothing sums it up like the Serenity Prayer.

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

That and "No one wants to see your underpants!"



Thumbs up for the City, businesses and Rose Garrison for decorating the downtown. Your hard work is noted. Its looking a lot better. Emailed in.

Thumbs up to Richard Miller CEO of the Norton County Hospital for the award he received in Wichita last week. Called in.

Thumbs up to the Norton Community High School Drama Club for their production of "The Love of Three Oranges" If you didn't see it you missed a great show! The high school kids are SO talented. Congratulations to Mr. Gay, all the cast and the managers. Thank you all. Called in.

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