

# Opinion

## Who can you trust?

Trust women! That was the message from Planned Parenthood at the Kansas State Fair last fall. I saw women wearing buttons sporting the sentiment. I saw them pinned onto back packs and baby strollers. I like that. We should trust women. But, I did not stop at the Planned Parenthood booth and pick up a button. Because I am a coward.

Because I assumed that people seeing the button would assume I was in favor of abortion. And I am not.

But I trust women. The March 24 *Telegram* printed a cartoon of a fetus. The fetus was saying, "I sure hope mom lives in South Dakota."

I find that cartoon insulting! It was on the editorial page. I am not so radical that I am going to call for people who trust women to rise up in protest, travel to South Dakota and create mayhem over a political cartoon.

But, I would like to know why women get such a bum rap. Does anyone think that every woman's first thought on discovering she is pregnant is to get an abortion? (Apparently that is what this cartoonist thinks.)

Since women cannot be trusted not to just run out and get abortions on a whim I think we should put all pregnant women into a jail of sorts. Even married women have abortions, even women that to an outsider seem to have ideal circumstances have abortions. Can we trust any of them? Better to be safe than sorry. At birth a council of sorts would decide if the woman could keep her baby or if it should be put up for adoption.

I'm not about to give men a pass, all fathers would be placed in jail. They would be let out to work but all their wages would be used to pay for the program.

Is anyone insulted yet? If you are happily married and planned your children you might be saying, "How dare you think you can decide what is appropriate for us."

South Dakota has decided they know what is appropriate for every woman. They decided for ev-

Back Home Nancy Hagman



ery teen girl who succumbed to her boyfriend's sweet talk. And, for poor women who are desperate not to make their situation worse. And for women who cannot travel to another state for abortions. They have decided for victims of rape and incest. They have decided for women who face having children with severe handicaps or genetic abnormalities. They have decided to risk a woman's life even if a doctor says it would be detrimental to her health to have a child.

The last three groups count for only one percent of all abortions. So there is no doubt this country has an abortion crisis. We have a higher rate of abortions than any developed country.

Adoption seems to be a reasonable alternative to abortion. Although in doing research for this column I discovered that women are more traumatized by giving up a baby for adoption than by abortion and the trauma lasts longer.

Abortion surely has a lasting impact on a woman's life, but then so does having a baby. Every decision we make affects what happens next. (The decision to be sexually active and risk a pregnancy affects the need for a decision about an abortion and on and on.) But sexuality just cannot be legislated, can it? How many eyes do you want in your bedroom?

I am not going to debate whether or not abortion is murder.

I believe in God. I try to let Him decide what sins others have committed. God gave us free will. He didn't have to do that.

I guess He decided to trust us. Maybe He was giving us yet another example of what we should do.

Trust each other. Trust women.

## Goodies are great...



Lauren Mordecai, left, represented the Busy Beavers 4-H Club when she brought a box of fruit, cookies and muffins into the *Norton Telegram* office. It was an appreciation gift for the support given the club and 4-H by the newspaper. Accepting the gift was circulation manager, Sherry Hickman. Lauren is the daughter of Don and Cindy Mordecai.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Committees to talk about cemetery

(Continued from Page 1)  
that the contract can be finalized at the next council meeting.

Also, Mr. Lawson said the city received a letter of warning from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment because the city didn't notify them when the power went out during a storm, causing a bypass of domestic wastewater into Prairie Dog Creek. He said he received the warning in enough time to send in the proper paperwork, so the city still has a good working relationship with the de-

partment.  
• Heard from Mr. Lawson that Whitney Construction is looking at the area west of the horse arena in Elmwood Park to give the city a cost estimate on making it into a parking lot.

Also, he said he spoke with Roofmasters about the library roof. The company has turned in a cost estimate for putting a new roof on each portion of the building, as well as a new roof over the entire structure. He said he will be getting another bid as well.

• Approve the use of the livestock barn on May 12 and 13 for the 4-H/FFA Spring Livestock Show. There are no races during those two days.

• Heard from Mr. Jones that the Kansas Department of Transportation has put the BB gun and jake brake signs back up on west U.S. 36. He asked Police Chief Lynn Menagh to look at them and make sure they are in the right spot.

• Heard from Councilwoman Donna Foley that the Public Safety Committee talked about a danger-

ous intersection at south Archer and KQNK Road. She said a temporary stop sign will be put up on a trial basis.

Also, she said school crossing signs will be posted on U.S. 283 by the Trinity Episcopal Church.

• Paid bills in the amount of \$421,510.96.

• Heard Councilman Ron Briery thank the city crews for patching potholes.

• Heard from Mayor Corns that he has gotten a lot of compliments on the last snow removal.

## Planning committee helps with board's decisions

(Continued from Page 1)  
development and continuing to update the district's technology.

Step two, said Lucas Melvin, was to develop a strategy to attract and retain excellent faculty and staff.

To do this, he said, the district needed to create more opportunities for professional development for all staff, develop a mentoring plan for all staff, and research opportunities to provide longevity rewards and implement a salary schedule.

Joan Bolt said step three was to develop a strategic plan to maintain and add/or improve needed quality facilities. To attract families to the community, maintain quality education and bring people into town for events, they needed to evaluate the facility conditions, do a facility review and needs forecasting, develop a list and wants and needs by using surveys and interviews, determine the cost of the desired improvements and de-

velop plans for generating the money needed.

Step four was to develop a four-day school week that maintains the current standard of excellence in academics and activities, said John Ruder. This would be to develop budgetary saving considerations for the district.

To do this, he said they needed to evaluate the use of the four-day week in other districts, use the findings from the evaluation to determine the potential savings, develop an activity and athletic schedule, gain community support and then implement the plan.

Each of the goals appointed who should be responsible for each action plan step and also a timeline as to when it should be started and finished.

Mr. Jilka said the two main priorities of the committee were to maintain a high standard of curriculum and staff.

"I think we learned a lot," he said. "It was a good opportunity

for us."

Board member Jennifer Terrell said the report would help the board to make decisions for the future.

In other business, the board:  
• Accepted the low bid of \$35,242 from Nelson Brothers Construction in Norton for concrete work in the district, which included a base bid and two alternates. Superintendent Greg Mann said the work should be finished by Aug. 14.

• Directed Mr. Mann to develop bid specifications for a replacement sedan, which will be given to the board for review at the May meeting.

• Held three closed sessions lasting a total of an hour to discuss non-elected personnel.

• Accepted the resignation of Glenda Campbell as Eisenhower's fifth and sixth grade teacher with regret and thanked her for her 34 years of service to the students.

• Accepted resignations from Doug Reusink as the junior high assistant football coach, Bill Manning as the junior high assistant track coach, Lindsey Bailey as the high school head KAYS sponsor, and Deyton Hager as the high school assistant wrestling coach and the junior high head wrestling coach.

• Changed Jason Jones from the junior high assistant track coach to the high school assistant track coach for the 2006 track season.

• Approved supplemental contracts with Lindsey Bailey and Kristin Maddy as the junior high assistant track coaches for the 2006 track season.

• Approved a contract with Raoul (Rudy) Perez as the high school principal.

• Approved letters of intent with Shane Miller as the high school counselor and Melissa Ross as the kindergarten through eighth grade counselor.

• Approved Jason Jones as the high school head track coach for the 2007 track season.

• Set a special meeting for personnel actions at 8 p.m. on Thursday in the school board meeting room.

• Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.

## Council makes annual appointments

(Continued from Page 1)  
chair; and Mrs. Foley, member.

• Public Works Committee — Mr. Gaer, chairperson; Mrs. Foley, vice-chair; and Mrs. Mann, member.

• Airport Board — Mr. Briery and Mr. Williams.

• Housing Authority council representative — Mr. Gaer.

• Kansas Municipal Energy Association council representative — Mr. Briery and City Administrator Rob Lawson.

• County Commission council representative — Mrs. Mann.

• Bed Tax Committee council representative — Mr. Jones.

• Chamber of Commerce council representative — Mr. Briery.

• Library Board — Mayor David Corns.

• 20/20 Emergency Planning Committee — Mr. Jones.

• Solid Waste Committee representatives — Mr. Jones, Mr.

Corns, Mr. Lawson.

• Economic Development Committee — Mrs. Mann and Mrs. Foley.

Other appointments made were:  
• Norton City Clerk — Mrs. Ellis.

• Norton City Treasurer — Patty Rowh.

• Norton City Attorney — Karen Griffiths.

• Norton City Prosecutor — Doug Sebelius.

• Chief of Police — Lynn Menagh.

• Fire Chief — Mitch Jones.

• Assistant Fire Chief — Kirk Nuzum.

• Municipal Judge — Jerry Hawks.

• City Health Officer — Roy Hartley, M.D.

• Official City Newspaper — *The Norton Telegram*.

Mr. Lawson said he would also like to recognize KQNK Radio as

the official city radio station.

"I just want to recognize them for what they do, even though there is no official appointment," he said. "They do a lot for the city and it's appreciated."

### 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

## Volunteers and hospice

In observance of National Volunteer Week, we offer excerpts from an article by Jack Gordeon of the Hospice Foundation of America

The 96,000 hospice volunteers that work in hospices throughout the U.S. are an essential part of the hospice philosophy of care which recognizes that dying is not just a medical event but a personal one as well.

These volunteers are important members of an interdisciplinary team working to "de-institutionalize" the dying experience and provide a more humane system of care for the dying and their families. In fact, federal law requires that at least 5 percent of patient care hours be provided by volunteers.

Volunteers in hospice find it personally gratifying, intellectually stimulating, and emotionally meaningful to assist those in need at a critical point in their lives. Many of these volunteers were introduced to hospice through the death of a family member and understand firsthand the value of hospice care.

Volunteers consistently report that helping the terminally ill through hospice is not about dying but about living.

Hospice Services has opportunities for volunteers. Participants may range in age from teens to senior citizens.

While volunteer opportunities can vary greatly from one hospice to another, all hospices strive to constructively utilize the time and talents of those who answer the call to serve. Some volunteers may have professional skills or specialized expertise, but most are special people who want to help their friends and neighbors and serve the community.

For information about volunteering with hospice families, please contact Amanda McKenzie, Director of Volunteers

## Hospices Services, Inc.

for more details on specific needs but some of the wide range of opportunities available for hospice volunteers can include:

• Support for patients. This can include visiting, reading, taking walks, writing letters, bringing in music, supervising visits with pets, even touch therapy for volunteers with the necessary skills.

• Respite and support for family members. Volunteers can assist with shopping or household maintenance, or allow family caregivers the opportunity to take care of necessary errands and get some time away from the house. Family members also appreciate a visit from a compassionate friend who understands what they are going through.

• Child care assistance. This can include help with babysitting, picking up children from school or providing necessary transportation to club meetings or sporting events and practices. Volunteers have also made invaluable contributions with family pet care.

• Bereavement support programs. Hospice volunteers can work closely with the hospice's professional bereavement staff in a variety of duties that range from personal contacts and/or visits to supporting group education efforts.

• Fund raising and administrative work. A volunteer with clerical skills can serve a hospice by helping in the office with simple administrative duties.

To ensure that all volunteers are equipped for the challenge of working with the dying, hospices require that volunteers complete extensive orientation and training sessions.