

### Here's something to think about

Everybody is wondering what title Bill Clinton will adopt when wife Hillary is elected president. A lot of assumption in that sentence but it needs to be in order to rationalize our point. You see, it is our guess that if Sen. Clinton of New York becomes president and, as a result, New York loses her as a senator, that state won't be without a Sen. Clinton for long. Bill Clinton will be appointed to fill her vacant seat.

After that takes place, and if the Democrats maintain control of the U. S. Senate, he will be picked to become Majority Leader. He has the experience, no question there.

If that scenario comes about, President Clinton will be sure Senator Clinton is home at the White House nights. We need not offer an explanation for that comment.

Talk about control? One Clinton in the oval office, the other holding the top leadership post in the Senate? That would be a first!

Clinton the candidate for the presidential nomination will use this ploy to keep her husband out of the oval office. Make no mistake, the view is Mrs. Clinton is running because Mr. Clinton can't, but he can sure wield the power as a former president to point her in whatever direction he thinks the country should be going.

His interference has unfolded in the past week as he has been running around the country telling would-be voters that mistakes made by then-First Lady Hillary Clinton (national health insurance comes to mind), weren't really hers, they were his. This is something the Clinton campaign doesn't need. It makes Hillary look like she is incapable of running the country.

The more he sticks his nose in the campaign, the less credibility she carries into it. Plain and simple. But that is good news for Sen. Barack Obama and former Sen. John Edwards, numbers two and three in the Democratic nomination race. Iowa polls have those three in a virtual tie.

It's also good news for the Republican campaign, which is having a few problems of its own. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani leads in national polls, but trails former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney in the Iowa caucuses which will be Jan. 3 and the New Hampshire primary just days later. And these two states carry a lot of weight in determining who continues and who doesn't in the two races. The attacks between Giuliani and Romney are getting sharper.

So, we offer these comments as we all try to figure out who would best serve this country after President George W. Bush turns off the White House lights in January 2009.

If you haven't participated in The Telegram's straw poll please do so today. Simply let us know who you favor among the many candidates. Here, in case you have forgotten, are the candidates (in alphabetical order):

Republicans — Rudy Giuliani, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, John McCain, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, Tom Tancredo and Fred Thompson.

Democrats — Joe Biden, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Chris Dodd, John Edwards, Mike Gravel, Dennis Kucinich, Barack Obama and Bill Richardson.

E-mail your pick to [tomd@nkansas.com](mailto:tomd@nkansas.com), call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, drop by the office, or mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654. You may attach a comment. You need not sign your response.

### Thumbs Up...

To...Don Ryan, for the support he has given the thrift shop. (called in)

To...Dollar General, for all the items they donated to the Andbe Home. (Kent Blake, administrator)

To...Jim and Marla Ruth, Jay Ryan, Ada Arford and Valerie Babcock, for your interesting exhibits at the Norton Public Library. (-td)

To...Gordon and Creta Mae Fought, Norton, on the honor bestowed on your son, Donald, named one of the country's most highly effective teachers. The honoree is a 1965 graduate of Norton Community High School. (-td)

To...the participants in Monday's Veterans Day Parade in Norton, and those who put it all together. (e-mail)

(Submit your salute to [tomd@nwkansas.com](mailto:tomd@nwkansas.com), call 877-6908 or 877-3361, fax 877-3732, or mail it to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654. Thanks for your continuing input. -td)

Wanted: Letters, Thumbs Up.  
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## THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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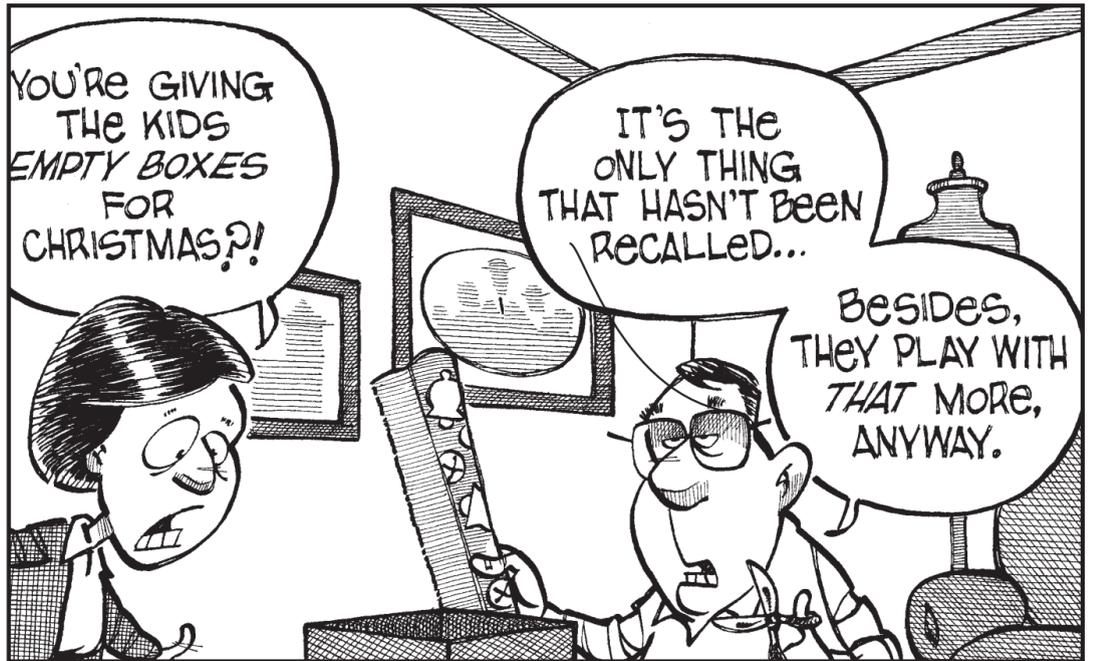
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### Breaking news: The 'doc' is doing fine

Patient Update: Jim (and his finger) are both doing well. As you might expect, he removed his own stitches sans any antiseptic. I imagine he just used his utility knife. At least, I didn't have to watch.

Saturday night we helped host an appreciation dinner to thank everyone who sponsored members of our mission team that went to Mexico.

We served burritos smothered in a green chili gravy, Spanish rice, refried beans and Texas sheet cake. After dinner we shared pictures of the trip and answered questions. It was sure fun to see our teammates again.

Everyone from the team was able to attend, except for two young men who live out of the area — but we were thinking of them. We're already signing people up for next October's trip. Start thinking about it. You would love it.

### Out Back Carolyn Plotts



-ob-

Had a long phone visit with our daughter, Jennifer, who lives in San Antonio. She has the one-year-old.

Jennifer said they have been trying to get little Ani to say, "Whoooo-doggie." But, all Ani gets out is, "Whooo-duh." It's so cute to hear her little voice go "Whooo-duh."

And, Jennifer said when she put the phone to Ani's ear, so I could "talk" to her, Ani kissed the receiver. Oh, my! It makes this grandma cry.

We are just too far away. All our grandkids

are growing up so fast. We have a granddaughter who is almost 17.

-ob-

And, speaking of birthdays. I can't fail to mention that this week my oldest daughter, Halley, will celebrate her 40th birthday. Now, how can I possibly have a child that is 40 years old? She was in high school just last week, wasn't she?

Twenty years ago on her birthday I said to her, "Just think Honey, in 20 years you'll be as old as I am now, but I'll only be 60." She could easily imagine her then 40 year old mother being 60.

But, no way, at age 20, could she imagine herself being 40. And, now, here it is. Where did the time go?

It is so true, "The older you get, the faster time goes." I'm afraid I'll turn around and be 80.

And, still won't have everything done I want to accomplish in this life.

### Future looks bright for ag exports

#### Insight John Schlageck

Will the United States wind up a second-rate exporting nation or will we grasp the golden ring? During the next few years, our country will have one of its best opportunities to export agricultural products. World population is expected to double before it levels off again.

What developing nations want most are cereals, meat, milk and eggs. While U.S. meat consumption is hardly rising, it increases approximately 100,000 tons per year in Japan, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In China, meat consumption has risen an average of 2.3 million tons yearly during the past few years.

The United States has the climate, cropland and know how to supply agricultural products to feed the nations of the hungry world. Our country has the world's best infrastructure. We have the best-trained farmers. This competitive edge is larger and more permanent than in any manufacturing industry.

So what is the problem?

Our government is not committed to becoming the best we can be in international trade. If we conducted trade the same way we produced food, we wouldn't have any trouble moving agricultural products to people who need them overseas.

It's time for the leadership of this coun-

try to view American agriculture as one of the premier-growth opportunities. We must become more aggressive in conducting trade agreements. Without strong trade agreements that give us free access to the world marketplace we cannot prosper in agriculture or any other business that depends so much on exports.

If the world's farm trade barriers were removed, this country could increase agricultural commodity sales. That's a given. This country must eliminate trade sanctions for good. We can no longer afford to impose unilateral trade sanctions on nations that don't live up to our expectations of how they should conduct their internal affairs.

Sanctions do not work — they only hurt our nation's ability to trade. Each time we impose new sanctions, we surrender yet another market to competitors who are only too willing to sell in our absence.

U.S. farmers could also supply the raw materials for another \$40 billion per year in exports of high-valued processed foods from new plants located primarily in rural areas.

The United States must assume a lead-

ership position in trade talks throughout the world. If our country doesn't gear up its value-added production, the Japanese and some of our other competitors will.

Potential trading partners cannot wait for us to take our place at the negotiating table. We cannot improve our position in world trade if we cannot find time to meet with them.

Unless American farmers and agribusiness convince our government to advance global trading, this country will be sealed in a declining domestic market. If this occurs, the most productive agricultural machine in history will shrivel and die.

The future of U.S. agriculture is tied to our competitiveness in world trade. Our country must become more aggressive and assume its leadership role in trade negotiations.

Today, international markets depend upon approximately one-third of U.S. agricultural production. U.S. agriculture must increase access to international markets. Increased exports for U.S. agricultural trade must become one of the top priorities for future prosperity in this nation.

John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.

### Patriot Guard has correct focus

#### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



this mission which they see as two fold, protecting the family at the funeral and reassuring those who are still fighting that their families will be protected.

The Kansas Patriot Guard web page states they are not an organization, a club or a protest group. Becoming a member means you are added to their mailing list. The only requirement is "a desire to show respect for our Fallen Soldier and Their Families."\*

We are right to be shamed by Fred Phelps and his followers, but it is so much better to not let the emphasis be on him. The Patriot Guard places the emphasis on those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, the soldier and the family. May God's peace be with the Turner family and the Patriot Guard dedicated.

\*<http://www.kspatriotguard.org/index.htm>

for the families of fallen soldiers. This flag-carrying group of bikers was the first to provide a wall between the family and the protesters, but since that time chapters have been established in all 50 states. Some of the bikers are veterans and some are not.

Some are bikers and some are not. What they do all share is a belief that each soldier and his family deserves to be buried with dignity. The Patriot Guard travels many miles on their own time to fulfill

Few things are as emotionally moving as a military funeral. I was out of town on Nov. 2 when Sgt. Scott Turner was laid to rest. My nephew, Kirk, forwarded the pictures of the Patriot Guard as they protected the family from what had been threatened, a protest by Fred Phelps and his followers. For whatever reason, they didn't come, thank God. But the Patriot Guard did and their display of flags and the solidarity they represent was stunning in pictures, the actual sight must have been unbelievable.

Kansas, like all states, has had its share of embarrassing people, events, or things, but thankfully there are others who come forward to correct a wrong. The Patriot Guard, a group of bikers, is such.

The American Legion Riders Post 136 from Mulvane, banded together in 2005 to provide comfort and protection