

# Op-ed

## Whoa! Something doesn't add up

I was watching the news Tuesday and (Congressman) Barney Frank and a few others were talking about getting the \$350 billion (that's several dollars) sent immediately to homeowners who could not pay their mortgage, so they would not find themselves in foreclosure. (I may have paraphrased, but that was the gist of it).

If my memory serves me correctly, in the past when someone purchased a home, (or anything else for that matter), they agreed to pay the money they borrowed

### Memories

Sonya Montgomery



to purchase that home and I don't recall there being a clause in the agreement that said, "in case you find yourselves unable to pay the mortgage, other taxpayers will pay it for you." Sometimes things happen and

people end up either having made unwise decisions or sometimes it is not even "their fault", but each of us bear our own consequences.

To me this smacks of the idea that you really are not responsible for your agreements or actions, so why work at all, maybe Congress will "pay for everything for everybody."

I wonder if they have figured out yet that it is not "their money" but they collect it from hard working Americans.

(sonyam@ruraltel.net)

## Yes. . .Agriculture can do that job

Agriculture is losing producers. No one will argue that point, but larger, more efficient producers are replacing those lost in this highly competitive industry.

While this is not necessarily a desirable trend, it is one that has continued for decades — maybe since the beginning of this noble profession. That said, it is also a trend that is not confined to agriculture but has affected nearly every sector of the U.S. and world economies.

Regardless of this ongoing change, care for the land and this critical resource continues to improve. Today's farmers are increasing the amount of organic matter in their soil. With the advent of no-till and reduced tillage farming, farmers continue to build organic matter and improve the soil tilth. There is no reason to believe this practice will be discontinued.

Today's modern farmer is not exhausting the land. Just the opposite is true.

Without question, scarce water is always a concern, especially in midwestern states where rainfall is limited and people use plenty of it. Farmers constantly chart rainfall amounts and monitor weather

### Bashford:

## Third child on the way

(Continued from Page 1) out of our home, called Busy Bees Daycare. I have two sons, Andrew, 10, and Clayton, 3, and my wife is expecting our third child in late May or early June.

My parents, Michael and Kay Snodgrass, and my grandmother, Virginia Britton, all live in Norton.

**Q. Have you ever been on a public committee, council, board or commission?**

A. No, I have not, but I have done a lot of volunteer work in the community. I have been a Cub Scout Master for the last three years, Gun Club President for the past 5 years, and I was a coach for the BB Gun team in 2006 and 2007.

I'm always working with the community youth. I'm very interested in youth activities. And though I haven't been on the city council, I have attended council meetings off-and-on for about a year.

**Q. What are one of your goals if you get on the city council?**

A. My main goal is to improve communications between the city council and the community, and to let people know their voice will be heard. My job with Garrett's makes me very accessible to the citizens and business owners of Norton.

**Q. Do you have a "pet" project you'd like to accomplish as a member of the city council?**

A. My "pet" project would be to improve the quality of the streets in Norton, and replace the water and sewer pipes under the streets. As a city, we need to look at our money and not spend it frivolously, but not be so tight-fisted with the money that nothing gets done.

**Q. Do you have anything else you'd like to add?**

A. Yes. I know you can't make everyone happy all of the time, but I believe you have to try to make the majority of the people happy and be able to sleep at night with the decisions you've made.

### Insight John Schlageck

conditions.

In Kansas, agricultural producers are aware of changes in the Ogallala Aquifer. They understand the navigable waters issue because of its wide-ranging impact on farmland and farming. They understand the importance of clean water and have long supported the need for clear jurisdictional lines and a common-sense approach to wetlands.

Farmers are very much tuned into water and the conservation of this vital resource. Some are concerned about the potential of a long-term climate change.

If such a phenomenon does occur, there is the possibility that Kansas could become more arid — more like New Mexico, for example. But if this is a concern, no one has been predicting such an event to date.

Barring a major shift in our climate, crops will continue to be planted in western Kansas. Production could be less than now, but this land will be farmed and farmed wisely.

Another myth that is constantly being circulated contends that crop yields will not keep up with population growth. In many parts of the world populations have been declining or leveling off.

In addition to a population slowdown, crop yields have been increasing through genetics and sound farming practices around the world. This could all change with a couple of years of drought, but to say that by 2050 the United States will not be able to produce

crops is like yelling the sky is falling.

There is nothing to suggest yields will not keep up with population growth. Even countries with marginal soil and more severe climates than our own are growing crops today. We have better yield potential and better food value today and with new genetics and technologies coming on line, there is no reason to believe the world won't be able to feed itself in the future.

American agriculture is up to the task. This country has the ability to continue producing for the world.

The United States farmer and rancher can compete with other nations, if they aren't shackled by government regulations that cause production costs to soar.

Even the most efficient farmers in America can't make it with regulatory restrictions. Any regulations must be science based and uniform across the board for producers around the world.

If there is equal opportunity for everyone, where all producers have the same health and safety restrictions, U.S. agriculture will compete. Give farmers and ranchers the same opportunity, as others around the world and bountiful, wholesome food will continue.

Winston Churchill said many years ago, "Give us the tools and we will get the job done." The same can be said for agriculture in this country.

*(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.)*

## 'Umm, umm...good?'



Kolton Harting, a seventh-grader at Norton Junior High, tested the ceramic tractor mug he made in Art class Tuesday. After shaping, glazing and firing the mugs, the students critiqued themselves on various points, like the flatness of the base of the mugs and the techniques used to create them.

Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

## Leroux: 9/11 figured in decision

(Continued from Page 1)

They had scarcely been married two years when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. He said, he and his wife jointly made the decision for him to volunteer to serve his country. He joined the Kansas National Guard. He and members of his unit were soon activated and sent to Germany.

Upon his return, he was offered the position of recruiter at the Norton National Guard. When his enlistment was up, the Lerouxes wanted to stay in Norton. He said he has been offered more money to move to a bigger city, but because of the children, they've chosen to stay. Mr. Leroux began working for Natoma Corporation as the Quality Assurance officer in June of 2007. He said Natoma is a great place to work because of the work schedule and it offers a family-friendly environment. He now has combined duties as the Human Resources Officer and Safety Manager.

Mr. Leroux said his family is fast becoming a Blue Jay sports

family. His children are involved in T-ball, soccer and Junior Jay football. He has volunteered to be a soccer referee for the upcoming season of the American Youth Soccer Organization.

Mr. Leroux said his oldest son, Nathan, 17, had been living in another state, but chose to live with them in Norton because of the community.

The other Leroux children are Asher, 4, Andrew, 5, Amy 7 and Alex, 8.

If appointed to fill Mr. Briery's term, Mr. Leroux wants to make a positive impact on the committees Mr. Briery served on: finance, parks, airport board and public works.

He said that if he is appointed and subsequently elected, he will be looking for a specific project to make Ward III a nicer part of town while improving Norton, overall. He said he wants to do what is in the best interests of residents of Ward III.

"Public service is a valuable thing," said Mr. Leroux. He added, "Norton owes Ron Briery a debt

of gratitude for his years of service."

Mr. Leroux said he wanted to echo a statement made by Norton Telegram publisher/editor, Tom Dreiling. He said, "If you're at all interested in serving (the public), file papers." Mr. Leroux said he would rather be one of ten people interested (and not be chosen), than to be the only one interested. He said it would be great for Ward III voters to have a choice.

Mr. Leroux said, "If I'm appointed to fill the remainder of Ron's term, and hopefully elected to the office, it will be an opportunity for Brandy and me to give back to the community."

Mr. Leroux is a member of the Norton Veterans of Foreign Wars, Phi Theta Kappa, an academic honor society and Alpha Sigma Lambda, a national honor society for adult learners. He earned his associate's degree from Barton County Community College.

Mr. Leroux welcomes any comments, questions or suggestions. His e-mail address is joe\_leroux@hotmail.com.

### Coins, Vehicle, Household, Antique, Collectible & Tool Auction

Dorothy Goodman Estate, Kenneth Hoyt & Others, Special Consignment by Bobby Annon, Coins consigned by Wendy Peterson

Saturday ~ January 24th, 2009

9:00a.m. Coins will sell.

Probable Start for Household & Outside Items @ 11:30a.m.

4-H Building ~ Park Street ~ Norton, Kansas



COINS: (3941 Coins in 214 Lots)

**PENNIES:** Indian Head Cents- 61 Coins, 6 Lots, 1 Book, Oldest 1883 Newest 1908: Wheat & Memorial Cents- 2,463 Coins, 54 Lots, 1 Book, Oldest 1909 VDB Newest 1952D, & 3 Rolls 1961.

**NICKELS:** Barber - 56 Coins, 7 Lots, Oldest 1890, Newest 1912, Buffalo - 125 Coins, 9 Lots, Oldest 1913, Newest 1937: Jefferson 81 Coins, 40 Lots, 1 Book, Oldest 1938, Newest 1959: DIMES: Seated Liberty 1 Coin, 1890, Barber, 8 Coins, 6 Lots, Oldest 1899 Newest 1914, Mercury 135 Coins, 8 Lots, Oldest 1916, Newest 1939: Roosevelt 509 Coins, 12 Lots.

**QUARTERS:** Barber - 6 Coins, 6 Lots, Oldest 1899, Newest 1916, Standing Liberty 13 Coins, 2 Lot, 1 Books 1934, Washington-79 Coins, 4 Lots, 1 Book Oldest 1932, Newest 1959.

**HALF DOLLARS:** Barber, 10 Coins, 10 Lots, Oldest 1900, Newest 1914S, Walking Liberty, 27 Coins, 1 Book, Oldest 1937, Newest 1947D, Franklin 23 Coins, 4 Lots, Oldest 1948D Newest 1949, Kennedy & Washington 2 Coins, 1 Lot, Rare Half Dollar Confederate 1861, Columbian Half Dollar 1882-1893 2 Coins, 1 Lot.

**SILVER DOLLARS:** Morgan, 23 Coins, Oldest 1879, Newest 1921, Peace, 16 Coins, Oldest 1922, Newest 1934.

**PAPER MONEY:** \$1.00 Silver Certificate, 5 Bills, 3 Lots, Oldest 1935, \$1.00 Federal Reserve 1 Lot 1963, \$5.00 US Note 1 Bill, 1 Lot, \$2.00, 5 Bills, 3 Lot, All 1928.

**FOREIGN MONEY:** Canadian Silver 28 Coins, Canadian, Mexican, German, Great Britain, Hungary, Iceland, Bahamas, Italy, 236 Coins, 23 Lots. **TOKENS:** 13 Coins, 2 Lots. **WOODEN NICKEL:** 7coins, 1 lot., Wildwest Cowboy & Indian 7 Coins, 1 Lot.

**SPECIAL CONSIGNMENT BY BOBBY ANNON:** (For a detailed listing, call 785-877-3032 and one will be sent.)

19 Straight Edge Razors (Golden Rule, Cut & MG Co, Sheffield, Flying Dutchman, Shapleigh, Satinegge, Duplex, Unham, Challenging, Western, Griffin, & Others), 34 Pocket Knives (Colonial, Schrade, Queen, Winchester, Coca-Cola, Remington, Other Advertising, & More)

**SPORT, GARDEN & OUTSIDE ITEMS:** Porch Glider, Toro Blower, Commercial Weed Eater, Sled, Yard Seat, Child Porch Seat, Porch Post, Trailblazer Camp Stove By Winchester, Blue Rock Thrower, Box Blue Rock

**FEATURE ITEMS:** Tiffany Lamp Electric Hurricane Lamp New Silver King Saddle Chess Set - Hand Carved Limestone with Case & Board #21 Wood Cook & Heating Stove (Complete)



**FURNITURE:** Like New Octagon Table 2 Rolling Chairs Single Bed Entertainment Center Lift Chair Wing Overstuffed Chair Kitchen Table Oak 1 Drawer Side Table Ornate Backed Chair Fancy Oak Parlor Table Foot Stools Wine Color Love Seat (Like New) What Not Shelves Spool 3 Shelf Stand Homemade Fancy Rack Magazine Racks Several 4 Drawer Dressers Metal Shelf Serpentine 4 Drawer Dresser Table with 2 Curved Back Chairs Oak Drop Front Writing Table 3 Piece French Provincial Full Size Bedroom Set

**ANTIQUE KITCHEN ITEMS:** Blue Granite Bucket Wicker Baskets 2 Blue Band Kitchen Crocks 2 Cast Skillets Blue Crock Graniteware Primitive Table Legs

**KITCHEN ITEMS:** Deep Fat Fryer Salt/Pepper Shakers Cream Pitcher Nesco Roaster with Base Metal Roaster Metalware Bowl Antique Cherry Pitter Farber Grill Bunn Coffee Maker Corning Ware

**LINENS:** Hand Stitch Quilt Pillows

**TOYS:** Porsche Remote Car Scooter Large Assortment of Stuffed Toys

**OFFICE EQUIPMENT:** Computer Ball Point Pens & Lead Pencils 4 Drawer File Cabinet

**COLLECTIONS:** 4 Nebraska Spoons 11 Bags of Marbles Sm Amount of Jewelry

**PAPER PRODUCTS:** Fiction Books Music Books Cook Books Louis L'Amour Books



Visit our website at [www.krvn.com](http://www.krvn.com), select auctions, choose January 24th



**VEHICLE:** 1997 Delta 88 Oldsmobile LS, V 6, 3800 Series II, Good Tires, 113,000 Miles, Electric Seats, Electric Windows, 4 Door, Leather Seats.



**OUTSIDE FEATURE ITEMS:** 8 Foot Wood Stock Tank #210 Wringle Wash Tub Wringer

**TOOLS & EQUIPMENT:** Air Bomb 24 Ft Aluminum Ext. Ladder Magnavox TV Aluminum T Square Rake Teeth Grinder with Electric Motor Wood Wheels Wood Hay Mill Pulley 7 Iron Wheels (Rake & Smaller) Caliper 4 Antique Forge Tools Intercompressor Coal Bucket & Shovel Drill bits 2 Pipe Wrenches Screwdrivers 4 Roller Chair Bases 1.5 Shop Vac Powermate Sweeper Demister Well Head 40 Pc Combination Drive & Ratchet Set

**APPLIANCES:** Large screen TV Litton Electric Stove Magnavox TV Kenmore Apt Washer GE Dryer Several Vacuums (Bissell, Eureka) Little Chief Smoker Microwave Emerson TV Danbury Countertop Dishwasher

**HOUSEHOLD ACCESSORIES:** Sewing Machine, Lamps of many kinds, Oval Frame, Other Picture Frames, Tempus Figut Grandfather Clock, Radio, Aloran 31 Day Wall Clock, Ornate Rug, Maxwell Parrish Print, Folding Chairs, Two Bird Cages, Botanical Prints Lg & Sm., Wall Plate Holder, Regulator Wall Clock with Certificate, Wood Fireplace Mantel & Surround, New Ceramic Pedestal Bathroom Sink, Ornate Picture Frame with Side Mirror

**DISHES:** 24 Pieces of Bohemian Glass, 5 Tea Pots, 2 Murano Miliflorie Glass, Noritake Bowls, Lahwile China Piece, 3 Collector Eggs, Large Paper Weight, Crystal Vase, Terra Cota Vase, Ceramic Pie Plates, China Plates, White Stoneware Set, 7 W.B Studio Cartoon Characters

Sales Tax will be collected. Not responsible for accidents or items after sold. Terms: Cash day of sale on personal property. All announcements day of sale take precedence over printed material.

### Duane R. McEwen

Auctioneer - Salesperson East Hwy 36 - 601 East Holme Norton, KS 67654 Phone 785-877-3032



**Auctioneer Notes:** My crew and I are glad we have the opportunity to put together this extraordinary sale in this 2009 new year for you to bid and buy. We will start on the coins right at 9:00 A.M and I am sure it will take two or so hours to sell this many lots. Be sure to be on hand around 11:15 because the balance of the sale will start as soon as the coin sale finishes. The car will sell right at 2:00 with the furniture & appliances to follow. The Annon Collectibles will sell close to 1:00 P.M. Do join us for our first sale in 2009!