

Law enforcement logs big contribution

The police log that appeared on Page 2 in Tuesday's paper is now a regular feature. Next will be the sheriff's office log today. These logs tell a story about Norton and Norton County, in brief form. They are necessary for publication so residents of this community and county know what's going on.

Seemingly, before unmasking the logs, one would think residents of Norton and Norton County, never had occasion to call their law enforcement people for anything. Not so. The logs tell a different story. Often you would hear of reports of questionable activities going on at night, or early morning, or whenever. They were then called rumors. The logs either discount or confirm those rumors.

I wondered what the reception was going to be, but I didn't have to wonder very long because I've received several calls thanking us for this service. It takes a little bit of time to compile the logs, so we would be remiss if we didn't thank the police department and the sheriff's office for their cooperation.

Working together we can get things done.

FOX and Friends, in this case, Enemy, got taken by a guest Thursday morning. I don't know if you picked up on it but I sure did! Some dude was lambasting the health care reform Congress is currently debating and which the AARP strongly supports. The dude is apparently a member of the AARP, so he took his AARP card out of his wallet and ripped it apart. Wow, what muscle! The card he pulled out was pretty old and easy to rip apart, while the new AARP card — being issued the past year or two — is very tough. I tried to tear it apart without success. I'll bet you he had his new card in his wallet and still does, or else he didn't pay his dues and that's why he still had the old one. While you may differ with AARP's support of the health care legislation, that organization helps seniors in many, many other ways.

Sorry, FOX, this guy out-foxed you!

I forgot to mention a while back that my tax refund arrived on July 8. No, there was no interest included. So I am now looking into that, inasmuch as a spokesman for the Department of Revenue in Topeka told me — and I quoted him in this column — that refunds arriving after July 1 would include interest. Maybe the state can't afford the interest, much like it had to delay payment of refunds for lack of \$\$\$. To make matters worse, the refund was mailed to a post office box I haven't used for quite a spell. Apparently, down there in Topeka, they pay no attention to the current address on the W-2 forms and let their computers find something to match the name. Thank goodness for our very fine and alert post office, the return found its way to the correct home.

I heard Michael Jackson died. I mention that because CNN continues to roll him out as though it just happened. Maybe they need to roll those 24/7 news (I use that word lightly) channels back to 12/7 so they can take a rest.

Why is it that the news crawler on the bottom of the television screen rolls on and on and on until a commercial appears? Then the news crawler disappears?

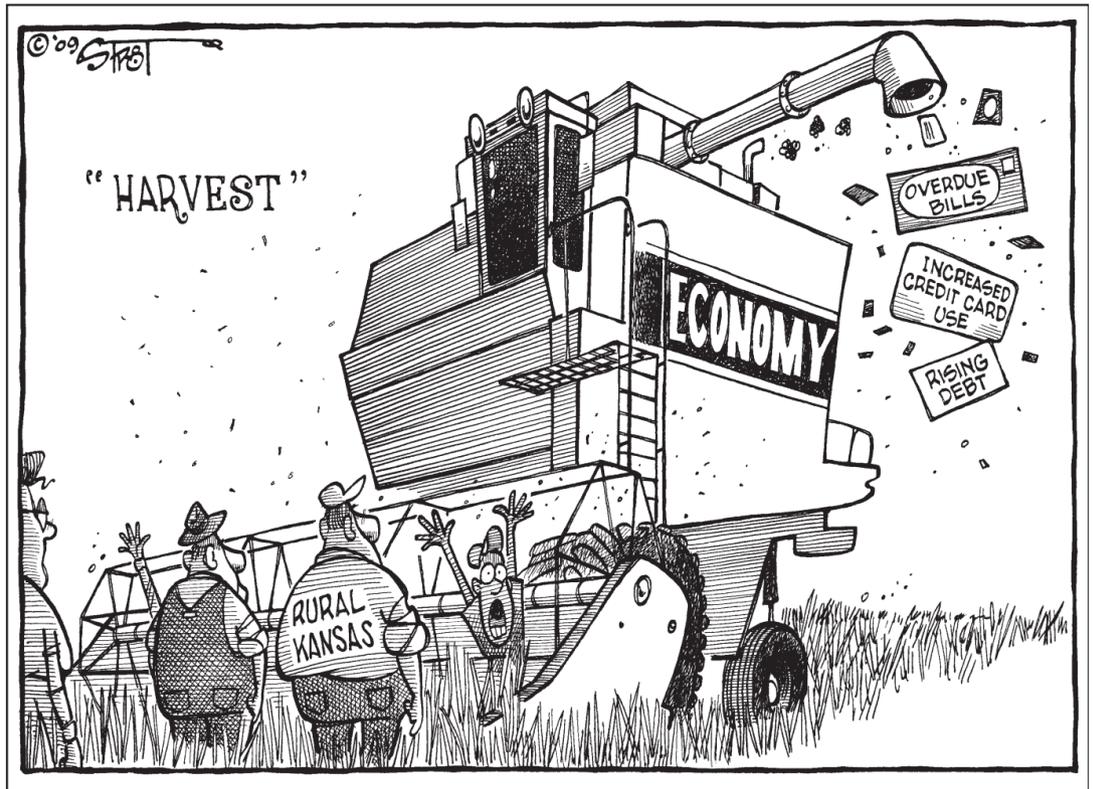
The Republican presidential wannabes continue to distance themselves from x-Gov. Sarah Palin. When they appear before the cameras they are nice when her name surfaces, but boy they closely guard their comments. After all, Sarah's out of the cage and into the wild. She'll be something to reckon with, if not in 2012, then in 2016. She's a popular lady and I'd rather hug her than Mitt or Mike or Rudy or whoever else wears pants.

There is such a thing as debating, fiercely if needed to score points, but still remain friends. I mention that because on Capitol Hill the debates many times leave deep scars, and this year it just seems brutal. Of course this inconsiderate attitude has been the norm for several years now. I and a friend stand as an example of how a debate should be handled. Joyce lives in Oberlin and she and I are pretty much on opposite sides of the fence on most things. She speaks her mind and I speak mine. Sometimes the words are tough. But in the end the friendship trumps all else. I always welcome her emails and am always anxious to open them. Our family friendship goes back many years; no scars. See, you stubborn sillies on The Hill, it can be done; try it.

Have you ever wondered how tall Adam and Eve were? How much they weighed? The color of their eyes, their hair? How old they were? DNA would answer a lot of these questions, I would think. Did they ever marry? What was their last name? Who delivered their kids? If Adam was first, did he ever talk? If so, to who? When Eve arrived on the scene was it a marriage made in heaven? I wish they had The National Enquirer back then...damn the luck.

Have a good evening! And when you attend the church of your choice this weekend, think of what the first couple didn't have and what you do have, and then be generous with your financial contribution. It's needed.

Let's Chat
Tom Dreiling



Insurance companies need to stand up

Jack and I were married when I was 19 and he was almost 21. We were both students and by some standards incredibly young and naive and certainly without much money, but having said that we always have had health insurance. In the beginning we had a private policy which, looking back, consumed a fair amount of our small income. That coupled with the university student policy saw us through any problems we encountered in those early years. We even managed to have two children. Then in 1970, nine months after our second child was born, Jack went to work for the U.S. Bureau of Mines and we had a group policy through the federal government.

With the two of us and five children we have had a fair number of medical problems, some more unusual such as a childhood chest tumor, epilepsy, rheumatic fever, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and some typical of all families, asthma, ear infections, tonsils, etc. The critical thing was we never had to wonder if we could receive treatment. We could work with our doctors as they

Phase II
Mary Kay
Woodyard



about private greed. Concern about costs to small business continues and is valid, however a study by the White House Council of Economic Advisors has found that small businesses are required to pay up to "18 percent more (than large companies) to provide employee health insurance". Thus more small employers choose to not provide insurance and most especially in the current recession. With Obama's reform, insurance companies could not penalize small business in this way.

knew we had insurance. But throughout the years we have seen our coverage decline, our premiums increase and services dwindle.

If you have watched as people have fallen into bankruptcy because of their child's cancer treatment or been unable to receive treatment for a debilitating disorder because of expense, you want to see change. Perhaps you or someone you know has a pre-existing condition and cannot get health insurance. Some larger companies which could provide insurance choose not to. Many times those at the top with higher paying jobs have company health care, but some employees must choose between family insurance or groceries. Frequently it isn't about company profit, but rather

Now as Congress debates health care reform, everything is and should be on the table. Will it be costly? Absolutely. Is it costly having families file bankruptcy or medical facilities write off costs? Definitely. Will private businesses suffer if they have to provide health care? The corporate jets may be up for grabs or the winter retreats, but with good management I think companies can strike a healthy balance. Insurance companies have an opportunity now to become a part of the solution rather than at the center of the problem.
(mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net)

Norton deserves a big 'Thank You!'

This article is a "thank you" to the community of Norton. I don't know if you are aware of this but your welcoming spirit and friendly dispositions help our patients feel at home. One of my goals as program director is to meet with each patient who comes through our program at least once during their stay. It is not uncommon for people to share how much they love our staff and program. Another thing they notice is you — the people of Norton.

So many patients walk through our doors having created many problems in their lives with their relationships. They become accustomed to feeling guilty, shameful and wary of the people around them. It becomes habit to believe the people around you feel the same way about you that you do so the thought that someone you don't know can be respectful and friendly is foreign. You help our patients heal. They have the experience of going into the community interacting with people who

Where There's Hope
Carla Moore

are open and willing to invite them into their lives without expectation of return. What a beautiful gift you offer without even being aware!

I can relate to our patients in this area. I came to Norton from a community of 8,700 with access to a city of approximately 48,000 plus the university population of Oklahoma State within 30 miles. Then within an hour I could be in towns with 400,000-500,000 easily. To say that it was possible to get lost in the crowd was an understatement. It was easy to walk past people and not even acknowledge that you had seen them because you would probably never see them again! We had forgotten what it means to be a vital part of a community.

That changed when I moved to Norton. Actually, it began even before I got here. I was promoted to program director and the same day I was offered a place to stay by someone I had met from Norton when they came to Cushing to work. Some of the ladies I would be working with had their husbands get the refrigerator moved into the house and working before I even set foot in the door. People offered to help me move in and welcomed me with hugs. It was overwhelming to begin with but something that I have come to cherish since being here almost three years.

I know most of you have lived here most of your lives so may not realize how special your town is. I want you to know that our patients and I both know and are glad to be a part of your community!

Enjoy your day. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at cmoore@valleyhope.com. Namaste - Carla.

To... the Norton community, for its involvement in the fair! We had our class reunion and it added so much to our festivities. It is truly a great community effort and it shows! (email)

To... everyone who helped in searching for my daughter, Veronica, who was lost in the cornfield, and to all who responded to our call for help. Thank you! We were greatly impressed with the speed in which emergency crews responded. (Michelle Urban Bieker and the Urban family)

To... Jay B. Carlton, for coming over in the middle of the night to trim trees that had fallen on power lines. (called in)

To... all the unknowns, who helped get the tracks reset so the grain trains could continue to deliver our wheat around the globe. (called in)

To... the Washington Street Park people, who keep it looking so nice and inviting. What a great addition to our downtown. (Telegram staff)

(To render a salute, email tom.d@nwkansas.com, call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your continuing input. -td)

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