

Dear Mr. Haynes,

I am writing you today to explain why I will not be extending my subscription to the Norton Telegram. I have had this subscription to the paper for about a year now and I am just mind blown by the fact that almost all of your opinion writers are all liberal writers that have for the most part done nothing but slam the Republican Party and suck up to the great President Obama. The bottom line came down in your piece that you wrote in on 3 May 13 where you are trying to explain how the only way for the Republican Party to survive they would have to modernize themselves to your standard which is quite different than what the Republican Party stands for or is.

First of all, the portion where you said that the Republican Party is nothing but Old White Men in Suits is a very racist statement to make when the Republican Party is made up of people of all races. To even compare this to a way to describe the Democrat Party in a way that is somewhat close to that kind of statement would be to say that the Democrats are a bunch of Plantation owners and slave drivers or the Democrat party is nothing but a bunch of liberal hippies. Both of these statements seem to me to be very one sided.

Second, you state that Republicans need to come on board with the immigration reform. There is no proof that the Republican Party is anti-immigration, however, the Republican Party is anti-illegal immigration. So why is it such a bad thing for people to be against the support of allowing people that have broken a Federal Law to not have to face the accountability of their actions by breaking the laws? Amnesty is another way of saying turn a blind eye to felonies because the immigration laws are federal laws which have been created to protect America from allowing too many people from one country to immigrate to America. If our nation grants Amnesty to illegal immigrants then how will America be able to enforce immigration laws in the future?

To me this would seem like a double standard if America grants Amnesty to illegal immigrants, why don't we grant Amnesty to murders, rapists, and Con men? Why should we choose to enforce some laws but not all law? Why are illegal immigrants who break the laws by coming here any better than a con man that steals your money?

Personally, I don't think that the standards of the immigration laws are a thing of the past. In China there is a reward of 100 Yen for people to report illegal immigrants in China. In Malaysia a citizen received 10 whippings and 18 months in jail for hiring 6 illegal immigrants for employment. In October 2008, Mexico tightened its immigration rules and agreed to deport Cubans who use the country as an entry point to the US. It also criticized US policy that generally allows Cubans who reach US territory to stay. Cuban Foreign Minister said the Cuban-Mexican agreement would lead to "the immense majority of Cubans being repatriated." In a 2010 news story, USA Today reported, "... Mexico's Arizona-style law requires local police to check IDs. And Mexican police freely engage in racial profiling and routinely harass Central American migrants, say immigration activists. In 2004 Saudi Arabia began construction of a Saudi-Yemen barrier between its territory and Yemen to prevent the unauthorized movement of people and goods into and out of the Kingdom.

So it would seem that America is not the only Country to impose immigration laws in order to protect the populous and the workforce. Yes, America is often called the melting pot when it comes to the fact that almost every citizen can trace their family's roots to at one point in time immigrating to America. But this was legal immigration at the time of the immigration to place. There is a huge difference between legal and illegal immigration whether or not you want to believe it.

When I started to read your article in the 3 May 13 opinions page, I could not read past the portion of where you were talking about immigration reform. Let's face it. Amnesty may be a thing that you like but don't hate on people that believe that a person who breaks a law and can't produce proper paperwork for their citizenship should be deported because they broke the law if that's what the laws say.

I don't know if you went on to say anything about the gun control factors, but let me just say this. If people want to support the second Amendment and believe in those freedoms, then why should a Party stand in the way of those freedoms? Back ground checks are already done on the sales of legally sold weapons. More people died each year from semi auto pistols, hammers, other blunt force objects, and knives. The amount of people that are killed by semi auto machine rifles is nowhere near the amount of people killed by drunk drivers either. Why don't we take away people's cars? There is no known amount of illegal guns that are in America. Illegal guns in America account for the highest majority of gun crimes.

I just want to thank you for your time. I hope you understand why I will not extend my subscription to the overwhelming liberal articles of the paper. With little conservative articles in the paper.

Jeff Burton



Goodbye to the old and hello to the new

A dear friend was laid to rest today. She was so faithful and stuck with me through thick and thin, but she simply wore out.

In fact, she was so thin you could almost see right through her when you held her up to the light. She was my favorite blouse and today was her last day.

One of my girls gave her to me for a birthday present several years ago and I doubt there was a week went by that I did not wear that blouse. It was a coral color with yellow and turquoise "patches" plus bright embroidery. Sounds "gaudy", and maybe it was, but I loved that blouse. It always seemed to fit, even if nothing else did.

After several seasons I had to retire it from my "good clothes" wardrobe and hang it with my everyday, work-at-home clothes. The hem is frayed, a button is missing, the "patches" faded, and the top-stitching worn through. Today, when I pulled it off the hangar, the collar almost came off in my hand.

So it ends. But that blouse's useful days are not entirely over. She will end up in the rag bag and next time I see her she will be dusting furniture or wiping up a spill.

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



-ob-

The baby calf has officially been named by Ani, our 6 (almost 7) year-old granddaughter. She was the only one of the grandchildren who had never named a calf so I texted a picture of the little heifer to Ani's mom and asked her to have Ani come up with a good name.

The reply came back, "Cocoa."

I like it. A perfect name for a little Black Angus. There's only one problem. I will have to send Ani another picture because her PaPa went to the sale barn and bought a little friend for Cocoa. Since the two calves look like twins, I'll be anxious to hear what other name Ani might come up with.

In the meantime, I'm fixing bottles of milk for the little girls and feeding three times a day. Jim wants me to start them drinking from a bucket, but I have several friends with little kids who

want to come feed them while they're still on the bottle.

I don't know what is more fun. Watching the calves eagerly take their bottles or the children as they delight in feeding them.

-ob-

This was the week for planting trees. We keep a "nursery" right outside the kitchen window for baby trees. Some we buy (after they've been discounted), some come up volunteer, some are given to us. They stay safe in the nursery where I can water and weed them until we decide where they need to be planted.

Last year we talked about where to put a tree. This year we transplanted several of the larger ones. A maple, an oak, two flowering plums and about six cottonwood trees we transplanted from a friend's pasture. It might take a lot of water this summer to keep them alive, but a tree in Kansas is worth whatever it costs.

We may not live to see shade from the ones we planted, but as my mother used to say, "Plant a tree for the next generation. Someone planted these for you."

Wandering about in the wheat fields of Kansas

Looking at wheat throughout the central region of Kansas during the first couple days of May, members of the Wheat Quality Council (WQC) labeled the crop in fairly average to slightly above average condition.

Go a bit further west to Graham County and the wheat crop took a turn for the worse, according to Mark Nelson, Kansas Farm Bureau commodities director who's taken part in the WQC for several years.

"We really saw some tough wheat the further west we traveled," Nelson says. "A lot of this wheat didn't come up until after the first of the year and when this happens you can count on about a 50 percent drop in yield potential."

Along Highway 27 motoring south from Goodland to Hamilton County, the team in Nelson's vehicle estimated the average wheat yield at 14 bushels per acre.

"We saw one wheat field where we couldn't see a single green plant," Nelson notes. "We looked for tracks to determine if it had been sprayed with chemicals. Seeing none, we assumed it was a combination of drought and winter kill."

Topsoil in this region of Kansas was dry, although they did find "fairly good" subsoil moisture as they probed deeper beyond the dusty soil surface.

The 80 participants of the 56th annual tour agreed the crop is approximately two weeks behind schedule. After

Insight

John Schlageck



three days on the road, they estimated the 2013 wheat crop will yield 313 million bushels. Nelson was a bit more bearish in his estimate and tabbed the crop at 301 million bushels.

The tour began April 30 in Manhattan and traveled west to Colby on the first day. Twenty vehicles followed six different routes. The second day the tour headed south and east while ending up in Wichita. On the final day the WQC tour moved from Wichita to Kansas City.

Each vehicle made from 12-20 stops and this year's tour tallied 250-300 per day.

"We used formulas provided by Kansas Ag Statistics to make our estimates," Nelson says. "While this nearly 313 million million bushel estimate seems like a small crop, we only have to go back two years to 2011 when Kansas farmers harvested a 276 million bushel crop because of the drought. On the other hand, in '97-'98 we harvested a bumper crop of 500 million bushels."

Participants were happy to see limited freeze damage in central and

northwestern Kansas. They started seeing indications of some frost damage in Ford County, where in some fields 50 percent of the tillers were turning yellow and were the texture of mush.

Signs of freeze damage continued through the Greensburg area.

"Once we passed through Pratt, we didn't see any additional frost damage," Nelson says. "The late development of the wheat crop probably saved a good portion of the wheat in this region."

WQC participants didn't record many issues with diseases either. They did note a bit of stem rust but very few insects mainly because of the chilly weather throughout April.

Wheat farmers understand the wheat crop is usually as good as it will get the first week in May. With ideal weather conditions the crop can maintain and if temperatures turn hot and the wind continues to blow, the crop can deteriorate quickly.

One thing is certain, weather throughout the rest of May and June will significantly impact conditions as the crop moves toward maturity and harvest.

"If we can keep a cool May, with a couple timely shots of rain, this crop could still turn out closer to average," Nelson says.

Whatever the 2013 wheat crop eventually yields, it will be what it will be - when Kansas farmers harvest the crop and haul it to the bin.



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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

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Kansas Press Association

