

Will it be enough to keep a hold of office?

Much ado was made last week when Democratic candidate Paul Davis trotted out a troop of disaffected Republicans who support his campaign for governor over the incumbent, Republican Sam Brownback.

The group, calling itself Republicans for Kansas Values, represented a virtual Who's Who of the old "moderate" wing of the GOP, people who used to run the Republican Party — and the state.

Prominent among them were Insurance Commissioner Sandy Prager, three former presidents of the Kansas Senate and three former House speakers, the Associated Press reported.

A Salina-area state representative, J.R. Claeys, raised some ire by commenting that Davis has "raided the nursing home" to scrape up some former Republican leaders. Many are retired — or had been retired by the voters — but most are far from a nursing home.

Mr. Davis had egg on his face by the end of the day when former U.S. Rep. Jan Meyers of Johnson County, now 85, denied that she had endorsed the Democrat for governor.

"There must have been some miscommunication," she told a reporter, while admitting she had joined the new Republican group, which she said reflects her moderate views. She said she was trying to stay out of the race, but if she did endorse anyone, it would be Mr. Brownback, "our Republican candidate."

Davis campaign spokesmen referred questions to the Republican group, but eventually had to admit it is not acutally an independent group, but a part of the Davis campaign — an interesting twist in itself.

The history of the renegade Republicans on display stretched back to the Bill Graves administration and beyond, moderates who had run the state at least since the Docking administrations. Some would say the two well-liked Democratic governors, father and son George and Robert, were more conservative than some of the Republicans who followed.

At least it can be said that the state government and its spending continued to grow and expand under all of them — until the Brownback revolution.

In one sense, the governor was reaping his own harvest of discontent when the Republican liberals paraded their opposition. He and his followers and backers pretty much invited these people out of their party two years ago, when they mounted a campaign to purge the state Senate of its moderate leadership.

True enough, the moderates were blocking the governor's programs and tax cuts. In purging them, the governor gained some power for the time — and made a lot of enemies. Many of them were among those on display the other day.

Driving out the party's left wing was not without its risks, of course, but it did represent a sort of final step in Mr. Brownback's conservative takeover of the Statehouse.

The November elections will tell us whether this was a wise decision, and whether his wing is capable of holding its gains. — *Steve Haynes*



Providing assistance with dignity

Sometimes it takes something dramatic to make us realize, as a nation, the things we do right. In the area of disaster relief and coordinating many efforts, we must pat ourselves on the back. Although not perfect, still we endeavor to provide assistance with dignity.

It is a sad example, but the recent events of the MH17 Malaysian airliner crash in Ukraine reminds us what hours of disaster reenactment accomplish. This current recovery is compounded because it is a warring and politically divided region. The value the region places on human life is seen through a different set of lenses than ours.

In the United States, we pride ourselves on our ability to go into a situation, form a plan of action and then know whom to call and how to accomplish the goal. Time isn't spent determining whether they are one of "ours" or a foreigner. We recognize a need and respond.

I remember a friend of our son's who

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



traveled to Northern Japan following the tsunami in 2011. The devastation and loss of life was almost incomprehensible. Even now, three years out from the disaster, concerns about the region surrounding the nuclear power plants remain. Many still point to the lack of any clear cut plan from the government for relief. Victims point to feelings of frustration and having no sense of future.

In fairness, the country faced not just the tsunami, but the preceding earthquake, aftershocks and a nuclear disaster. Events that would put any country's recovery plans to the test. And in

fairness, we haven't always gotten it right either. Hurricane Katrina in 2005 in New Orleans and Hurricane Sandy in 2012 come to mind readily. One thing we do have in the United States, regardless of the type of disaster, are health officials, contractors, engineers, fire and law enforcement to assist in the clean-up process immediately. As a nation, we rely on these people's expertise and dedication. Civil defense drills take place in cities of all sizes throughout the year. Public service announcements encourage families to practice disaster preparedness not only in their communities, but within their own homes as well.

Ukraine and Malaysia are hampered by their lack of knowledge and expertise and often by their pride. We haven't perfected preparedness and recovery, but we are well on our way to fine tuning the art of empathy and compassion. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

Desensitized to today's profanity

VidAngel (a Christian production group) posted on Facebook showing a family dressed in white on a white background. They took 3192 hits with paint balls to illustrate how common vulgarities have become in movies.

The onscreen graphics tell us the first obscenity used in a movie was in 1939: Clark Gable. "Gone With the Wind". "Frankly my dear....."

You know the rest! Or maybe just those of my vintage know the rest. When I was a teen, GWTW seemed rather racy. During the time my friends and I were enthralled with the book I explained to a surprised classmate what a wet nurse. How is it I knew this and she did not? She was worldlier than I; on the other hand I read, a lot!

I also recall reading Leon Uris' "Exodus" while waiting on my Mom at some adult function. A woman took Mom aside and asked (in hushed tones) if she thought the book was appropriate. I only overheard the conversation; Mom never said a word to me. Let me tell you, I was on speed read after that trying to figure out what it was in there that I wasn't supposed to know about. I'm still not certain.

But I digress. VidAngel tells us 2013's "The Wolf of Wall Street" set a new high (or low) for vulgarity in films.

They dropped the F-bomb 528 times, blasphemed 70 times, and "other" 200 times. They also counted graphic violence and sex/nudity. Altogether this added up to 828 objectionable things. Supposedly the family took a hit for each objectionable thing. Which leaves me confused, where did they come up with 3192?

I'm beginning to realize this is a life-

This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



long problem for me! I fixate on some side issue and miss the bigger point.

Which I guess is: by accepting of colorful language we've become colorful. You should have seen the family by the time the hits were over---like a rainbow on acid!

Wait that probably wasn't the point. The point was society is spirally downward in proportion to the number of obscenities in movies!

I found myself nodding in agreement! We should protect our children from such language and graphic content in movies and television, right?

We have already decided to censor certain words: the N-word and the R-word come to mind.

Recently, I had an argument with one of the daughters about novels (marketed for young adults) like "The Hunger Games" and the "Divergent" series. I feel such books desensitize us to violence. She claims such books are fantasy and everyone understands that.

Okay, so why can't we say the outlawed words? It's just another way of expressing oneself! Everyone should understand that!

Some people are offended when the Lord's name is taken in vain. Some do not like to hear coarse descriptions of bodily functions, sex acts, body parts, as part of everyday conversation.

How do we decide who should be protected? And what they should be protected from?

A couple of years ago I checked out the movie "Precious" at my local library. It was critically acclaimed and ultimately rather an uplifting story. But it was shocking and not something any child should see. I asked the librarian if there were any restrictions on who could check it out. She had no idea of the content. Our library is a school-community library. It is the only library our school children have.

Later I was told they took the video off the shelf, but if someone asked for it they could check it out. I relayed my actions to a friend, who looked at me and said, "Isn't that censorship?"

Oh, dear, what did I do?????

I do not believe in censorship. My own life experiences tell me the surest way to make something desirable is to declare it forbidden.

I believe in self-censorship. If you do not like what is in a book or movie, you have the power to walk away. Controlling one's actions and words so as not to offend is not just respectful to others; it is a form of self-respect.

"Precious"? I'm not proud I got it banned in Kensington. Still, I'm not going to suggest it be put back on the shelf.

The movie is rated R. An R rating means the movie should be viewed by children only in the presence of an adult. It does not belong in a school library.

At least I don't think so, but who am I to decide. I can't even figure out what paintballs have to do with naughty words.

CITY OF NORTON ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor: David Corns
785-202-1305
dcorns@ruraltel.net

WARD I

Jerry Jones
785-877-2170
Chriss McDiffett
785-877-2216

WARD II

Roberta Ryan
785-877-2182
Gary Lacy
785-877-2867

WARD III

Ron Briery
785-877-3807
Jeff Urban
785-877-5535



Letters to the Editor and
Thumbs Up:

e-mail dpaxton@nwkanssas.com
or to write 215 S. Kansas Ave.



Remember there is no charge for rendering a Thumbs Up. Thumbs Up are meant to give recognition for a positive person or event in the community. Also remember all Letters to the Editor must be signed.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

E-mail:
nortontelegram@nwkanssas.com

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 Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002

OFFICE HOURS:

8 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Thur.
8 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Friday
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732

STAFF

Dana Paxton..... General Manager
Advertising Director
dpaxton@nwkanssas.com
Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay Sports
nortontelegram@nwkanssas.com
Michael Stephens..... Reporter
Managing Editor
mstephens@nwkanssas.com
Shylo Paxton..... Society Editor
spaxton@nwkanssas.com
Vicki Henderson..... Computer Production
Marcia Shelton..... Office Manager

