

OUR VIEW

Giving to others is in their DNA

Philanthropy Council's honorees quite the group

When the Philanthropy Council of Northeast Nebraska was organized just a few years ago, the wisdom of having an entity like that in place was immediately apparent.

There is such a large degree of charitable work taking place in the Norfolk area. Without it, it is accurate to say that Northeast Nebraska would not have the kind of facilities and amenities that residents enjoy and benefit from today.

This is not a corner of the state that relies on government and tax funds to accomplish great things. Government can be an active and helpful partner, but in many cases, it is the private sector that leads the way in accomplishing community and regional goals and seeing that a vision becomes reality.

So the philanthropy council's existence serves to properly elevate the status of that kind of individual and business commitment.

One way it accomplishes that is by providing a mechanism for recognition of those who embody the notion of philanthropy in their personal and business lives.

The council's 2014 award winners recently were announced and will be recognized at a banquet later this month. And what a distinguished and deserving group of recipients it is:

— Lifetime Philanthropist is Jim Bradford Jr. of Norfolk

— Philanthropists of the Year are Steve, Anita and Alex Busskohl of Norfolk

— Youth Philanthropist of the Year is Arria Lakha of Norfolk

— Business Philanthropist of the Year is Elkhorn Valley Bank and Trust

— Volunteer of the Year is Julee Pfeil of Norfolk

— Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year is Paula Pflueger of Norfolk

The collective talent, dedication, commitment to serving others and recognition of the importance of philanthropy among those recipients is amazing to behold. And, to a one, they would be the first to acknowledge many others in the community who also are worthy of commendation.

The Feb. 15 philanthropy council banquet will be a way to pay tribute to the 2014 honorees, but it also serves as worthwhile recognition of the overall importance of helping and giving to others.

What do you think?

The Daily News welcomes letters submitted by readers from Northeast and North Central Nebraska. They may be limited as to length, edited for clarity and should not deal with multiple topics. The Daily News reserves the right to not publish any letter.

EMAIL
editor@norfolkdailynews.com

MAIL
Daily News, Box 977,
Norfolk, NE 68702

FAX
402-371-5802

YOUR VIEW

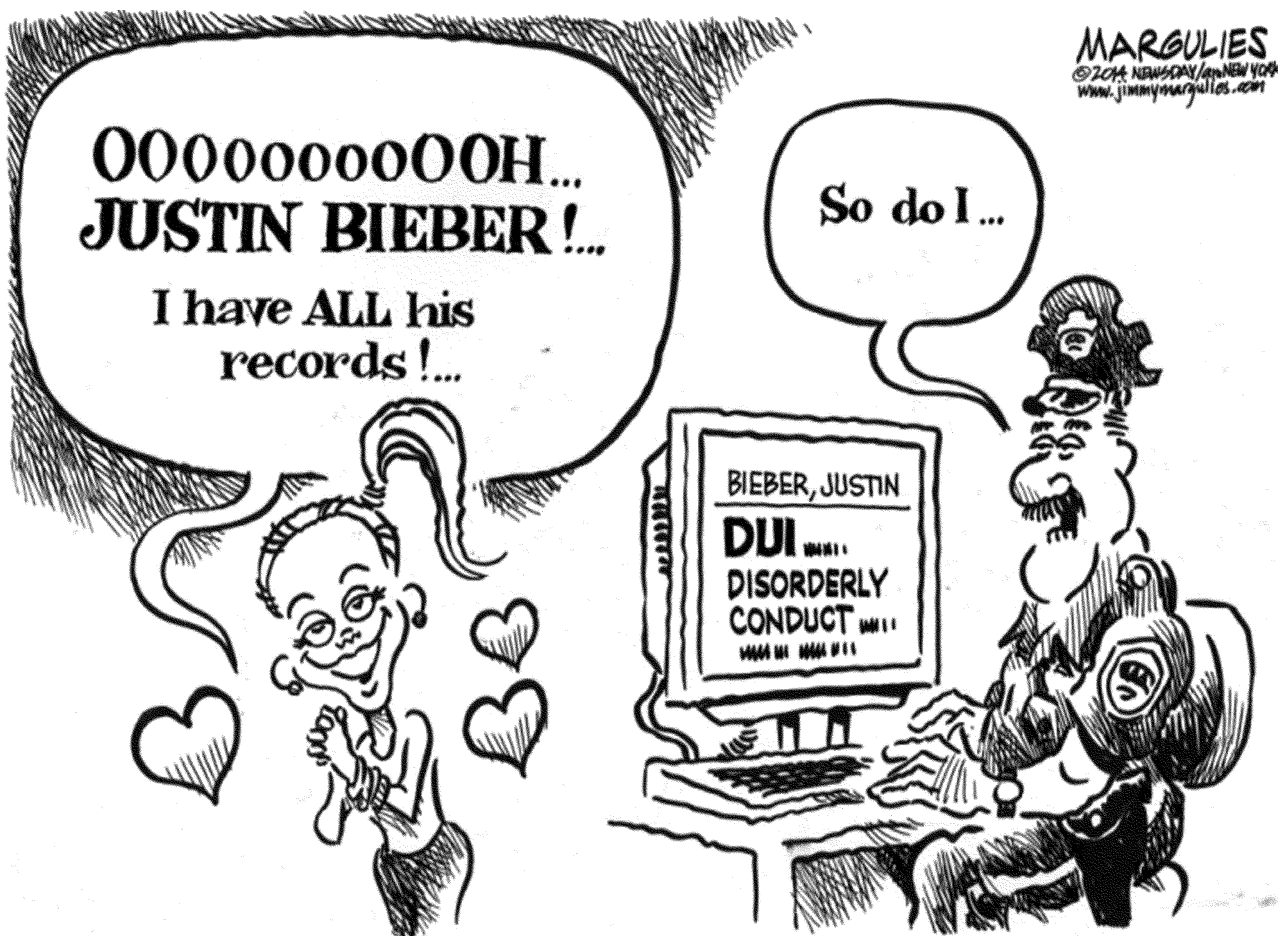
Road to disaster?

NORFOLK — I think that the robust stock market is not real. The Federal Reserve has been pumping money into the stock market for quite awhile at the tune of several billion dollars a month. This money is just being "printed" out of thin air. That certainly makes things look good until the day comes to settle up and it is found out that the dollars are not worth as much as people think they are because it was just created out of thin air and not tangible value.

Then inflation will eat up the value of old dollars, too. We have weathered the storm here so far, but we won't escape the inflation of our currency if the dollar is dumped as the universal currency.

If people would pay attention to something other than sports then they would know that the stock market is a house of cards. Every time the Fed chairman says they are going to ease up on quantitative easing, the market goes down. I can't predict when but the day of reckoning is coming. When government interferes in a free market then the results are artificial until the day of reckoning. Remember the housing bubble, it is the same thing. Government interference in the private economy has us on a road to disaster again.

TED LAIBLE



NOW, OF COURSE

Timing of allegations against Christie are no coincidence



Kathleen Parker

The question du jour is, why did Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer wait so long to step forward and level her corruption charges at Chris Christie?

As surely everyone knows by now, Zimmer claims that following Hurricane Sandy, New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno told her that Hoboken wouldn't receive relief funds unless the mayor supported a commercial development project favored by Christie.

Not surprisingly, the governor's office denies this. And Guadagno denies that the conversation took place as described. An investigation has ensued.

After the famous bridge closing, this amounts to a second scandal for Christie, causing enough smoke to make even a skeptic wonder if there might be fire somewhere. But the Zimmer story also seems too good — or awful — to be true. Hence, the nagging question, heard from pundits to pedestrians: Why now?

Let's take a look, dispassionately. Zimmer's only "evidence" that the conversation took place is her passionate insistence that it did — and an alleged journal entry in which she expressed her disappointment in and outrage toward Christie.

The journal entry, provided to CNN and available for viewing online, is ripe for dissection. The handwriting is messy, as if the author were distraught or in a hurry, and reads in part: "I prefer typing on computer — but maybe it is time to get back to journal writing. Embarrassed to say — but I found myself breaking down last night on the plane. I was watching 'Les Misérables' thinking about my dad — and so I cried for him. But then I was emotional about Governor Christie."

Hmmmm. Zimmer seems credible and sincere. But given the size of the nail she's trying to hammer into Christie's coffin, due diligence is in order. Let's begin with the words "but maybe it's time to get back to jour-

nal writing."

Really? Just now? Was the inspiration Les Miz? Or the bridge scandal? Her dad? Why on this particular day in May 2013 was the mayor motivated (finally) to start journal writing (again)?

One is faced with at least two possibilities: Either she's been telling herself that she really must get back to keeping a journal. Or, she's explaining to future cable interviewers why this entry appears so suddenly in a "journal" that she otherwise seems to have neglected.

The skeptic further notes that Zimmer doesn't come charging out to say Christie is just another corrupt politician. Instead she sets a stage, with no less than Les Miz. Instantly, my head is playing, "Do you hear the people sing?" while revolutionaries fight with sticks against government bullies and income inequality.

It is fair to imagine that we would not be so baffled were it not for the bridge scandal. This is because it seems probable that we never would have heard about Zimmer's crisis if not for the bridge mess. It apparently took other people pointing fingers at Christie for the mayor of Hoboken to locate her courage.

Zimmer says she was afraid that no one would believe her, which may be true. Or maybe she was willing to keep her own counsel because, as others have claimed, Christie is a bully. Or maybe she didn't speak up because this is the way politics is played in New Jersey and she just wanted to go along. Maybe she was afraid she wouldn't get the money her town so desperately needed. Maybe.

But by failing to speak up sooner and waiting until the safety of a mob had formed, Zimmer has in a sense indicted herself. Either she is — or was — as politically corrupt as those she accuses, or she is too weak to be a leader. Perhaps she is merely, plainly and simply, afraid.

Zimmer may well be telling the truth, and it also may be impossible ever to know. In the meantime, of this we can be certain. The demolition of Chris Christie, until now the best hope for a Republican presidency, got under way just as the serious fundraising and politicking were beginning.

Why now? But, of course, now.

Eliminating redundancies

Last week's column dealt with some of the most common mistakes made in writing. This week — thanks to information brought back by Mary Pat Hoag from a recent National Press Women conference — I thought I'd touch on the topic of eliminating redundancies from one's writing.

There's no question that individuals can improve their writing and editing by seeking to get rid of redundancies like "close proximity" and "empty space."

So here's a list of extra words that add nothing to one's written content. Eliminate such phrases and tighter writing will be the result. The redundant words are italicized just in case there's any confusion. Here goes:

- *absolutely* essential
- *actual* facts
- *added* bonus
- ATM *machine*
- *brief* moment
- *brief* summary
- *classify into groups*
- *close proximity*
- *consensus of opinion*
- *emergency situation*
- *empty* space
- *filled to capacity*
- *general* public
- *heat up*
- *introduced a new*
- *introduced for the first time*



Kent Warneke
Editor of the News

- *joint* collaboration
- look ahead to *the future*
- *major* breakthrough
- *mix together*
- *mutual* cooperation
- *natural* instinct
- *new* beginning
- *new* recruit

- *overused* cliché
- *period of time*
- *personal* friend
- PIN *number*
- *plan ahead*
- *reflect back*
- *reply back*
- *safe* haven
- *still* remains
- *sudden* impulse
- *temper* tantrum
- *unexpected* surprise
- *unintentional* mistake
- *very* unique.

So, get your redundancies out of your writing or, as Yogi Berra once said, "Sometimes you can observe a lot just by watching."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 5, the 36th day of 2014. There are 329 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 5, 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed increasing the number of U.S. Supreme Court justices; the proposal, which failed in Congress, drew accusations that Roosevelt was attempting to "pack" the nation's highest court.

On this date:

- In 1783, Sweden recognized the independence of the United States.
- In 1811, George, the Prince of Wales, was named Prince Regent due to the mental illness of his father, Britain's King George III.
- In 1914, "Beat Generation" author William S. Burroughs was born in St. Louis.
- In 1919, movie studio United Artists was incorporated by Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, D.W. Griffith and Charles Chaplin.

TIME TO SPEAK OUT

What do you think of the plan to use LB840 funds to help solve a natural gas issue?

The City of Norfolk is committing LB840 funds to help make possible a natural gas pipeline project that would solve accessibility issues in the community.

Tell us what you think

Share your opinion by sending an email to
editor@norfolkdailynews.com



TALKING POINTS

"Assad is responsible for the potential disintegration of Syria. He is a one-man super-magnet for terrorism." — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, deriding the notion that Syrian President Bashar Assad should stay in power to fight terrorists.

"I'm sick of it. I came home to steal a scarf from my parents." — Chicago resident Matt Ryan, 19, as many parts of the Midwest continue to experience below-zero high temperatures.

"It was really hurtful, like, wow — someone that I know, someone that I've been in the presence of more than short amounts of time. Never upset, never sad, just quiet, just chill. If any other emotion, he was happy, laughing." — Tydyn Scott, 19, a classmate of Maryland mall shooter Darion Marcus Aguilar.

"I suppose the robots would like to thank. . . . Honestly, I bet France is really proud of these guys right now." — Pharrell on the robot-clad Daft Punk, who won album of the year at the Grammys.

NICELY DONE

Congratulations to the organizers of the annual Royal ice fishing tournament on Grove Lake. It continues to draw a lot of interest and is enjoyed by many, but it wouldn't be possible without the efforts of the organizers. This is one of those events that makes winter weather a bit more tolerable.

INSPIRATION

Matthew 28:5-7

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

GO AHEAD & SMILE

What does a one-legged ballerina wear?

A one-one.

BORROWED THOUGHTS

Blaise Pascal: Justice and power must be brought together, so that whatever is just may be powerful, and whatever is powerful may be just.

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