

Tom or Mitt would fit the bill

Tom Vilsack for president.
Mitt Romney for president.
Plain and simple.
Vilsack is former governor of Iowa. Democrat.
Romney is former governor of Massachusetts. Republican.
Both are smart. Sharp.
They will bring new faces onto the national stage. New thinking.
Forget Republicans Rudy Giuliani, former New York City mayor, and Sen. John McCain, and Democrats Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama. Senators rarely win presidential elections.
Giuliani is way too liberal for the party in which he camps, McCain had his chance but was blown out of the pond by George W. Bush in 2004, Hillary Clinton is all over the place and we'll never really know what she's all about, and Obama is just too inexperienced.
The analysts — those people who gum up the machinery — are of the opinion that Romney's religion could be a drawback. He's Mormon. Didn't they try to use that same tactic against President Kennedy, a Catholic?

If we are serious, really serious, about getting the train back up on the track, we shouldn't be so quick to jump on the train that has been under the control of conductors and assistant conductors who managed to do very little to keep it going the past few years — both Republicans and Democrats. All they need to do is point the fingers at themselves when they talk about blame.

The problem is — money! Doubtless Mr. Vilsack nor Mr. Romney have warchests bursting with cash. Millions and millions of dollars will be needed. Unfortunately, the prize goes to the financially endowed. Which makes us wonder if perhaps the presidential derby should become a financial responsibility of all of us — federally funded. No more passing \$\$\$ under the table.

Sen. Clinton, for example. just won re-election to the U.S. Senate. That's a six-year commitment. If she decides to pursue the White House, she'll have to pretty much walk away from the job as a senator and campaign full time. If she wins the nomination but is rejected at the polls, she can go back to her senate seat. That doesn't seem quite right, but that's how it is and it assures that crowd of employment when they flunk the test. They should be required to resign, go after the intended seat and then let the chips fall where they may.

There will be many more wannabes organizing committees to assess their chances at an oval office run. Reason for this is simply because the playing field will be level. There will not be an incumbent president seeking re-election in 2008.

President Vilsack?
President Romney?

Either sounds good to us. But reality says that isn't going to happen.

—Tom Dreiling



Thanksgiving next, then 'Giftmas'

Mercy, we are now less than a week away from Thanksgiving. How times flies. Thanksgiving is probably my favorite holiday. Family, friends, relatives, food — very good food — and of course the two "F"s" — fellowship and football. No gifts necessary. Come as you are. Of course we know that Thanksgiving's fare does not just happen. It takes planning and implementation and those things generally are assumed by the lady of the house who, we hope, gets a well deserved "THANKS!"

Enjoy it because the pace picks up dramatically as we zero in on the next big, most misunderstood holiday of them all, Christmas, which, as you look around could easily be called *Giftmas!* The three wise men, you know, initiated that practice, but I doubt they could have ever envisioned what they started. But generally speaking, Christmas provides a warm, fuzzy feeling, unlike any other holiday.

But anyway, Happy Thanksgiving to each of you as I won't have a column now until the day after the holiday (Friday the 24th).

-td-

There is just no way to avoid seeing it, so let's discuss it. *It* in this case is Cialis. You know what it's for, unless that is, you don't have a television, or read magazines, or live under a rock. Each time this product makes its appearance on my television screen and I see this man and woman sitting in adjoining bathtubs holding hands out in a field overlooking the landscape, I want to yell — "GET RID OF ONE OF THOSE BATHTUBS AND YOU WON'T NEED CIALIS!"

Duh?!

-td-

In this column on Friday, Sept. 29,

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



2006, I wrote the following (and received some flak for doing so): "I was asked at the grocery store Tuesday evening what I thought was behind the dramatic drop in gas prices at the pump. It didn't take me long to respond, 'Nov. 7'"

Of course we know Nov. 7 was election day.

A day or two after the election, gas prices jumped a dime a gallon at the pump. Just maybe I wasn't too far wrong in my assessment. How many candidates heralded the strong economy, especially emphasizing the drop in gas prices? Many. Now here we are, right after the election, seeing those numbers go back up.

Sadly, I heard a couple of guys on the radio the other night discussing gas prices, and they agreed that the price will continue to climb for the remainder of the year. They predicted \$3 by the time we boot '06 and welcome '07. I don't see that happening. I think it'll nudge up a few more cents and hold steady in that range.

Of course a lot will depend on what the Democrats, who take control of the Senate and House in January, do. I think what they, and their buddies on the other side of the aisle, must do, is work together — TOGETHER! Neither party was worth writing home about this session and the results of the election pretty much underscored that. And if togetherness fails to materi-

alize, then in two years the house cleaning will resume.

Maybe we need to keep all members of the House and the Senate on their toes. We should never give them cause to feel too comfortable. When we allow that, we lose.

Back to gas prices... Don't take it out on the guys and gals who work at the places where gas is sold. They're not at fault. And, too, they have to pay for their gas just like we do.

-td-

You might call this, "The Last Words He Ever Spoke."

The room was full of pregnant women, with their partners. The Lamaze class was in full swing. The instructor was teaching the women how to breathe properly, and was telling the men how to give the necessary assurances to their partners at this stage of the pregnancy.

She said: "Ladies, remember that exercise is GOOD for you. Walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier!"

She looked at the men in the room, and said, "And for you gentlemen, remember you're in this together. So it wouldn't hurt you to go walking with your partner."

The room suddenly got very quiet as all the men absorbed this vital information. Then a man at the back of the room slowly raised his hand.

"Yes?" asked the teacher.

"I was just wondering...." the man said, "is it all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"

-td-

Have a good evening and a good weekend. And make it complete with a visit to the church of your choice.

Thumbs Up to . . .

✓ **Norton CARES**, for always picking up those people who can not get around on their own, and taking them to where they need to go. (visitor to *Telegram* office)

✓ **The organizers** of the Veterans Day parade, for a job very well done. (e-mail)

✓ **The Norton County Council on Alcohol and Drugs**, for your continued support and dedication to prevention efforts in our county. (e-mail)

✓ **Erin Hill**, last week's top picker in *The Telegram's* Pigskin Pick-Em contest.

✓ **Darrel and Sandy Preuss**, on your 40th wedding anniversary. (e-mail)

✓ **Jane Hrabik**, 1970 Norton Community High School graduate, on your installation as President of the Kansas Association of District Court Clerks and Administrators.

✓ **The Kindergarten** students at Eisenhower Elementary, for preparing Thanksgiving dinner for their parents this week. (Lisa Marie Henderson)

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Office hours:
8 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732
E-mail: telegram@nwkans.com

STAFF

Tom Dreiling editor and publisher
Lisa Marie Henderson advertising
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Sherry Hickman bookkeeping/circulation
Vicki Henderson computer production

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

Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002
Incorporating the Norton County Champion
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor



Open Season Cynthia Haynes



It was a beautiful fall. And I'm not talking about autumn here. I'm talking about trying to take a bite out of the road — a big bite.

We were walking along the road Friday. It was a nice evening for a walk, but it was getting late and we needed to stretch our legs and get the kinks out. Annie, our dog, had been on her chain all day, and she needed to get out and check out the world.

Suddenly, the black dog from down the street came out of his yard straight for us, barking up a storm.

This happened about a year ago and Annie had him on his way home in about 10 seconds, but Steve's been working with her and she's better behaved now. When he says, "Heel," she comes to his left side — a bit excited but obedient.

Steve wanted to avoid a fight, so he called Annie.

She came, but she was excited, not knowing whether she should make friends or send this interloper on his way.

She danced around, back and forth, but always at Steve's left. The only problem was that's where I was walking, then dancing, then falling as I tripped over the dog. I came down hard, my left knee hitting before the rest of my body.

"Are you all right?" Steve asked anxiously.

I didn't answer right away. I wasn't sure.

But, I soon rolled over, spit out some gravel and examined myself. Except for a bruised lip and a sore knee, I seemed to

be OK.

I figured I'd have a limp and a fat lip in the morning, but nothing was broken or even very bent.

In the morning, I discovered that my lips and teeth were fine, I had no bruises and the only abrasion was a tiny cut on my left hand. I wasn't sore and I wasn't even mad at the dog — or my husband.

I think those calcium supplements are working. Now maybe I should try taking dancing lessons or dog avoidance lessons or something.

I'm in a quandary. Obviously, no one wants to be in pain or suffer injury. On the other hand, I should have something to show for the shock and trauma of suddenly finding myself face down on the road.

I guess I should be glad the road wasn't paved. Concrete or asphalt might not have been as forgiving as gravel. Then again, grass would have been nice. Maybe a walk in the park next time.

Letters • Thumbs Up • Guest Columns • Other Comments

e-mail tom@nwkans.com, fax 877-3732, mail 215 S. Kansas Ave.