



Opinion

Who will McCain pick? We've got the answer

It shouldn't be very hard to determine who Sen. John McCain will choose as his vice-presidential running mate. Who is the young senator you see with him wherever he goes, smiling and nodding yes to everything being said? If you can answer that question you then have your answer.

It's none other than Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, very popular in the Deep South where Sen. McCain needs all the help he can get. I picked up on that McCain-Graham thing early on. Another staunch supporter of McCain is Sen. Joe Lieberman, an Independent-Democrat, who also accompanies McCain on many of his trips, the most recent to the Middle East. Lieberman was on the ticket with former Vice President Al Gore who battled it out with now President George W. Bush in 2000. Lieberman made a political name change to Independent after a rather weird re-election battle for the U. S. Senate in his state a few years ago.

A McCain-Graham ticket? I'm not a betting man, but...

-td-

What gives with New York? Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned last week for getting a little chummy with ladies of the night. Or morning. Or evening. Or afternoon. It caught most everybody by surprise. Then Monday of this week, New York swore in its new governor, David Paterson. A day later, Gov. Paterson, at a press conference — with wife at his side — let it be known that he and his wife had been cheating on one another, but sought counseling and now have their act together.

Is it the water?

-td-

I chuckled about this in a less than humorous way. You see I am enrolled in the Medicare Part D program and have been quite satisfied with the savings involved. However, for the past couple of months I noticed my \$30 insulin (yes, I'm diabetic) went up to \$37 at my pharmacy. So I pulled up my file and went through the distribution statements from my Part D company for the past four months. Up until two months ago, I was paying \$30 and the company I am enrolled with was picking up \$7.06. Now I pick up \$37 and the company pays \$.06 — that's right, 6 cents! I'm still shaking my head. But if my company needs that 6 cents worse than I do, I will let them have it. On a more serious note, however, I am still paying overall a lot less for my prescriptions than I had been paying. (Knock on wood.)

-td-

During this long break until the next Democratic primary April 22 in Pennsylvania, I'm also taking a break and watching less politically-motivated stuff on the tube and instead, watching more movies. FOX, CNN and MSNBC do nothing for me but confuse the political picture. There are better ways to spend evenings. I'll return to the political stuff about a week before the April 22 primary only to learn that nothing has changed. The pundits will again say Hillary must win or she's done, something they've been saying for months now. Gosh, I wish the November election was over.

-td-

Two new babies were talking one afternoon at the hospital when one of them said, "What are you, a boy or a girl?"

The other said, "Just a minute, let me look." The baby lifted its blanket, looked down and exclaimed with a grin, "Ohhhh, I'm a boy!"

The other then asked, "How can you tell?"

"Blue booties," came the reply.

-td-

Have a good evening! And when you attend Easter services at the church of your choice this weekend, rest assured you will witness a rainbow of colors.

Thumbs Up . . .

To... **S/Sgt. Tolle**, for your service to the greatest country on earth. (called in)

To... **Marietta Lucas**, city clerk, on your recent election to the City Clerks/Finance Officers Association board. (e-mail)

To... **Kent Kearney**, for publicly recognizing the late Bill Sharp's many contributions that have helped improve the Norton community.

To... two great businessmen, **Greg Engel** and **Doug Strayer**, for taking care of my flat tire last Wednesday evening. (called in)

(To submit a name or names, e-mail tom.d@nwkansan.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your input. -td)

OpinionLine: (785) 877-6908

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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



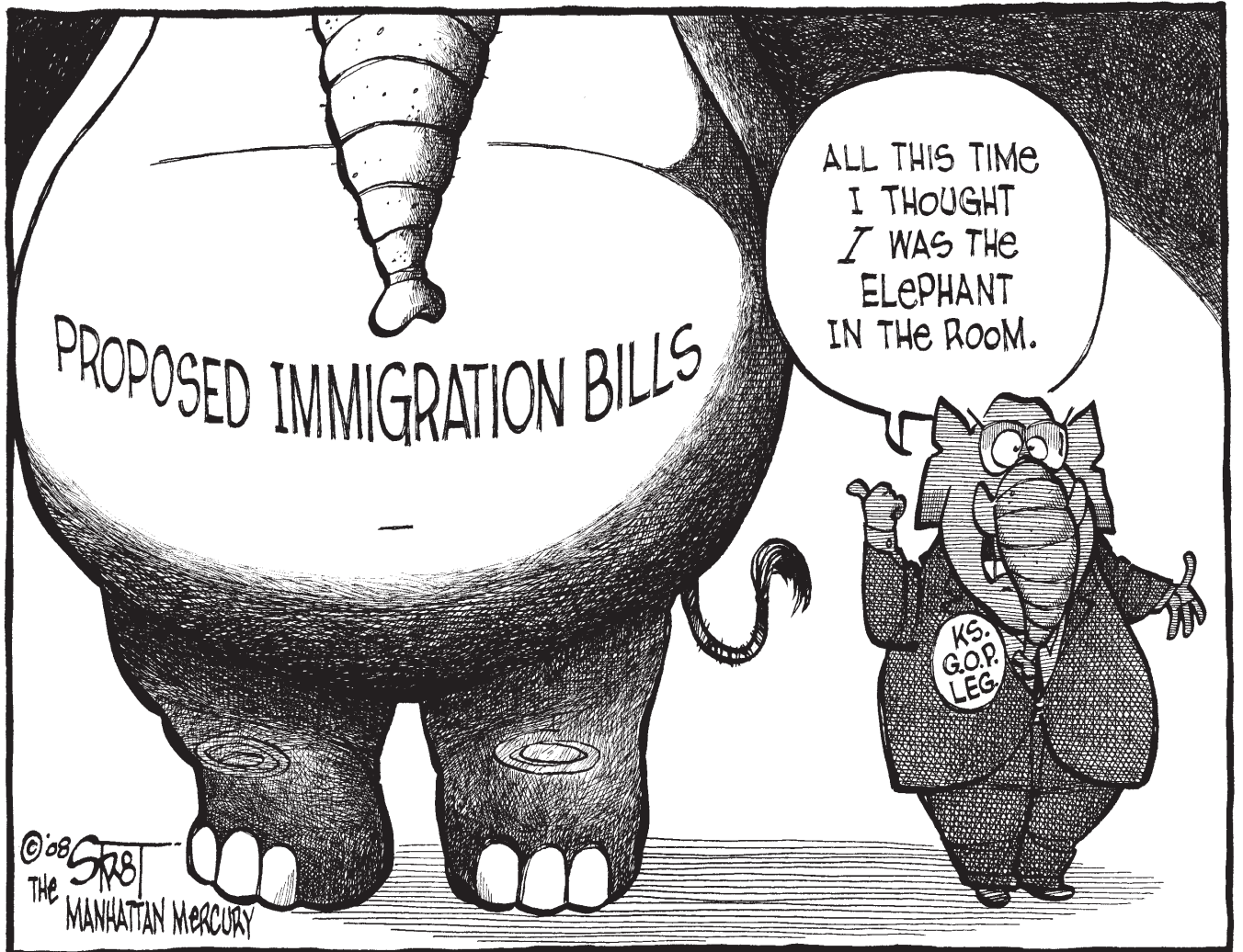
Office hours:
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732

E-mail:
notontelegram@nwkansan.com

STAFF

Tom Dreiling editor and publisher
Christie Anderson advertising director
Jay Kurtz advertising
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Sherry Hickman bookkeeping/circulation
Vicki Henderson computer production

Good Evening Norton
Tom Dreiling



We are taking too many school days off

To the Editor,

I think it is funny how the newspaper reported about the school board's plan to make changes to the 2008-09 school calendar. It sounded like they had just changed the date of a game or something, but no, they voted to let school out for another day.

Did they change it so the children of Norton schools could be out to honor Americans that are fallen soldiers on Veterans Day? No. It is so the children of Norton schools can be out for state wrestling, which most of the children will not

Your turn

go to. Now the parents of all the children who don't go to state wrestling have to take a day off from work or find someone to take care of their children when they should be in school.

This year we took time off from school for state volleyball and basketball, and now taking a day off for state wrestling, when we will only have four snow days left for the year. I feel it is time the parents of Norton schools to tell the school board

it is time to stop taking all these days off from school. Members of the school board do not want the children disturbed in class for even a minute for other organizations outside of sports to give children other opportunities, but we can take all these days off for state games.

Are there any other parents out there who feel the same as me? Please let the school board know by telling the members, or even better show up at the next meeting.

Timothy Bashford
Norton

Kids' looks don't always tell the whole story

To the Editor,

My four children and I enjoyed a day of activities at Elmwood Park on March 9. My children are your typical ranch/farm oriented kids; however, we try to expose them to a variety of other activities and sports.

Our latest venture is skateboarding. My kids are very "green" to this activity and were noticeably intimidated at the SK8 park. Eventually, they began to try

some "tricks" and "stunts" they saw the other boys doing. My oldest took a pretty hard fall.

Within seconds three other SK8R boys were at her side to see if she was okay. I want to thank them again for their concern.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind myself and others that under gothic clothing, hairstyles, tattoos and piercings are some great-hearted kids!

Just as great as the kids we are used to seeing in western attire from head to toe, riding horses. What great kids we have in our area!

What a great diverse park we have, providing activities for everyone, cowboys to SK8R boys, and many others in between.

Sincerely,

Niki Kinderknecht
Rural Norton

We need to make sure this doesn't happen again

To the Editor,

I hope you print this letter. This is in regard to a trash truck parking in the middle of a funeral procession.

It not only halted cars and people, it

was very rude and inconsiderate and very unsightly and smelly.

The police were there and should have done something to prevent this.

This happened Monday, March 10 at

the Catholic Church in Norton.

Thank you.

Wilma Jones
Lenora

Make plans now to help this worthwhile cause

To the Editor,

Spring is here and with it came the daffodil days, and now the second annual Cuts for Cures. Last year the hair stylists and barbers in Norton County set aside one day and gave a percentage of their income to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. This event is a way for Norton County residents to raise money for research, patient care and education about cancer.

The women who have a routine date set with their stylist, may want to contact their salon and ask what day they have chosen so patrons can participate in this worthwhile event. Gil's Barber Shop has chosen March 26. So, to all the men who visit Gil's, write this date on your calendar and get your hair cuts on March 26.

Now, for the pets, not to be left out. The Norton Animal Health Clinic has set aside March 25. Bring your dogs and cats so their nails can be trimmed for \$10. This would

be the day to have even those beloved pets who sometimes receive cancer diagnoses, too. It's important the pets get in on the action as well.

I would like to say a big "Thank You!" to all creatures in Almena, who couldn't participate this year due to calving season, but gave a donation.

I would like to encourage all to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. The hair stylists will be doing their part during the next four weeks. So, about mid-April is when this event will be winding down. Don't hesitate to call and ask what you can do through having your hair cut or fixed by your stylist. I have commitments from stylists in Norton and Almena. I wasn't able to reach a stylist in Lenora.

Not to be outdone, even the plant kingdom is going to participate again. Norton Flowers Gifts and Greenhouse will be going a cash and carry day on April 16.

But wait, I've gone another one —

Garden Gate Floral will also do a cash and carry day on April 16. Visit them and pick up your carnations and/or roses. This is just one more way to give to this worthy cause.

If I have left anyone out, it was purely by accident. Please call me at (785) 202-0777 if I can get anybody else in on the fun. Let's makes Norton County stick out this year.

We can do that by reaching our goal of \$15,000. We can do it, because we all have someone in our lives who has been diagnosed with cancer. It's worth those memories of those who have passed away and the celebrations of those who are still with us that gives us that urge to make a difference for future generations.

Let's give, Norton County! Let's all **celebrate; remember, fight back!**

Sincerely,

Sarah Durham
Norton

Numbers you will need

★ **Governor Kathleen Sebelius**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232

★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514

★ **U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

★ **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124

★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399

★ **State Rep. John Faber**, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500