



# Opinion

THE NORTON  
TELEGRAM

FRIDAY, April 18, 2008  
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## 'Week of the Young Child' reason to celebrate

Congratulations! to everyone involved in the "Week of the Young Child." You provide a most valuable service. The working moms and dads who need your talents can avail themselves of the service each of you bring to the plate knowing your child is priority #1. It's been a good, productive week and reason to celebrate.

Carry on.

-td-

Wednesday night I watched probably the most stupid of the presidential debates. It was held in Philadelphia and Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama faced questioning from Charles Gibson and George Stephanopoulos of ABC News. Unfortunately for the viewers (voters) we didn't learn much of anything. Instead, we were treated to reruns of the past, and lapel pins and pastors and associates and friends and all things that had nothing to do with a voter making up his or her mind.

Both Clinton and Obama seemed, at times, to be impatient with questioning, waiting to get to issues of substance. Charles and George (George used to be an employee of the Clintons in the White House, if you recall), instead used what I call "needle issues," things that have no lasting impact but continue to divide the two candidates simply because they are juicy. To heck with health care, immigration, the economy, the war in Iraq.

Wednesday night's debate again demonstrated how out of touch some of these people on the news networks are with *real* America. I call them 'elitists.'

Wednesday night's debate should have been in a forum setting whereby each candidate would be given ample time to explain to the viewers how they stood on the issues that really count. But that didn't happen, unfortunately.

The victims of this latest debate were Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama...and you and me.

-td-

Okay, you liked the funny stuff last Friday, so I'll give you a few more today to take you into this weekend:

√Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

The mother replied, "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

√A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late., and please don't shove me again!"

√Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

√A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He answered, "Call for backup."

√At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

√And here's the topper: Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad."

-td-

Have a good evening! And remember as you prepare for church this weekend, that this week and all weeks are dedicated to His children — of all ages.

## Thumbs Up

**To... the Norton 2008 Prom Royalty:** Logan Kats, Sara Lentz, Lacy Ellis, Todd Bolt. (called in)

**To... Prairie Dog 4-H Club,** for the super deeee-licious goodies. (Telegram staff)

**To... the early bird** lawn folks, who know what it takes to produce an attractive yard. (called in)

**To... all the stay-at-home mothers.** These are the real women at work who truly believe that every day is the day of the young child. God will definitely bless their labors of love! (e-mail)

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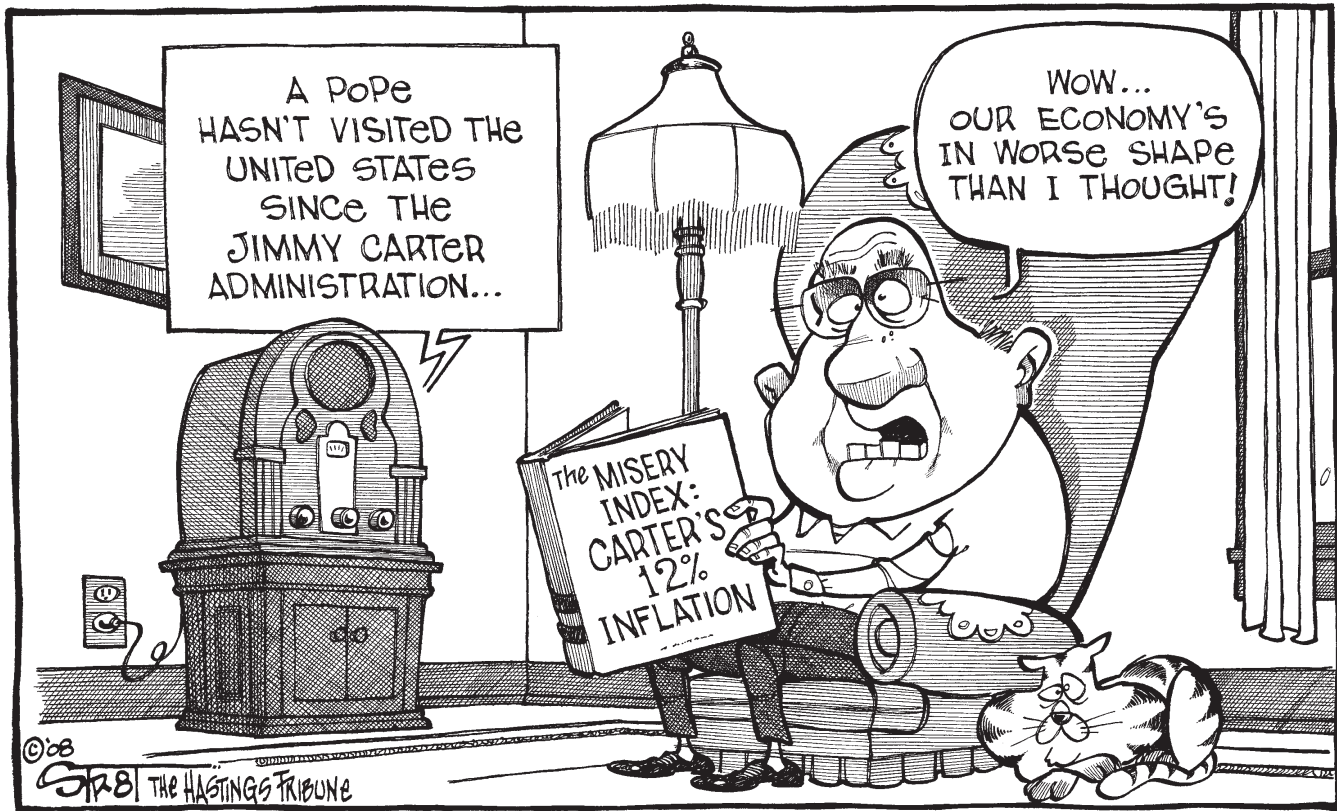
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### Nor'West Newspapers

**Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
Publishers, 1970-2002**

*Incorporating the Norton County Champion  
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor*



## Your turn...

## County clerk clarifies statements made in story

*To the Editor,*

After reading the Friday, April 11 *Norton Telegram* (Ballots Canvassed), I feel that I need to write to the citizens of Norton County for clarification. I am somewhat bothered by the fact that when county officials are quoted, the quotes are placed where they conveniently fit the writer's story.

It is true that during the public testing, one Automark voting machine failed to read the ballot. However, a call to the service provider corrected the problems and the Automark was ready by Election Day. I am also quoted as saying we had voting machine failure on Election Day. The true statement is one Automark gave election workers an error at 6 p.m.; however, we had two more machines on site that adequately provided. Therefore it was not a failure.

When the Help America Vote Act

(HAVA) was passed by the Federal Government, every county in the United States was required to comply with the federal legislation. Part of this legislation was the implementation of the Automarks that Norton County now has in place. There are also many other regulations that this law requires of Norton County, as well as the other 104 counties in Kansas. All 105 counties in Kansas conduct elections from one system as approved by the Secretary of State. And very true, I do believe one size does not fit all for several reasons which would simply take too much paper. At the same time, there have been a lot of great improvements with the elections system.

The election machines did not cause me a "headache" as the headlines read. Each election is a tremendous amount of work. The Norton County Clerk's office staff works hard to make sure that

the election runs as smooth as possible and each polling site is prepared. Norton County has invested a great deal of money and training into the Help America Vote Act compliant elections and the citizens can be assured that elections will not be a failure in Norton County.

To read the paper it sounded like the election and voting machines were a failure. Simply not true. Everything on Election Day worked to our expectations and the voting tally was completed before 8 p.m. I also give a great deal of credit to our election workers who did a great job.

In closing, remember to exercise your right to vote. Primary election will be here soon.

Sincerely,

*Robert D. Wyatt  
Election Officer  
Norton County Clerk*

## Wildlife and Parks plans crackdown on the water

*To the Editor,*

As warmer weather approaches and the fishing activity begins to increase, Kansas boaters are taking to the water. There are many activities that relate to utilizing a boat in Kansas. Some of the most popular activities include fishing, cruising, skiing, tubing, sunbathing and socializing. The most important fact associated with any activity relating to a boat is the fact that, whatever the activity, the people within the boat are indeed boaters.

Kansas law defines a vessel as any vessel designed to be propelled by machinery, oars, paddles or wind action upon a sail for navigation on the water. Each vessel must be equipped with a proper life jacket, also known as a personal flotation device for each person on board the vessel. These life jackets should be in sound condition without rips or tears and of the proper size for the individual who is intended to wear it. Children under the age of 13 are required to wear the proper life jackets while on board any vessel, as well as any

occupant on a personal watercraft. The most common violation for life jackets, according to statistics maintained by the Law Enforcement Division, is for life jackets not accessible on a vessel. For a life jacket to be accessible, the jacket should be in open view and shall not be stowed in locked or closed compartments or be inside plastic or other packaging material.

The importance of life jackets cannot be stressed enough as statistics show that during the 2006 boating season, 90 percent of those who drowned were not wearing a life jacket, resulting in approximately 423 lives that could have otherwise been saved. Kansas has been showing a greater increase over the years of boating-related fatalities, mainly from the cause of drowning.

For the 2008 boating season, the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Law Enforcement Division is taking a zero tolerance for violations relating to life jacket usage. Because it takes very little time for a vessel

to sink, it is important for the occupants of a vessel to have their life jackets accessible and highly recommended for them to be worn. In the past years many boats inspected and not found in compliance with life jacket usage were warned, either verbally or in written form.

Beginning this year, officers of the law enforcement division were given a directive to crack down on violators of life jacket laws. Officers were informed to work with local media and judicial systems to promote the importance of the life jacket laws and to adhere to strict enforcement of these laws on Kansas waters.

Our sole purpose is to reduce the increasing trend of fatalities on our waters and create a safer atmosphere for those individuals taking advantage of our great recreational boating opportunities.

*Dan Heskett, Law Enforcement  
Division Assistant Director,  
Boating Law Administrator  
Kansas Wildlife and Parks*

## Another Norton business joins fight against cancer

*To the Editor,*

We have yet another Nortonite willing to offer her business as a fund raiser for the fight against cancer. Rhonda Browning is a *Stampin' UP!* demonstrator and has thought of a wonderful way to help us become creative in decorating our luminary bags.

She has asked that we call her to set up a date and time to bring out our luminary bags and she will have the supplies needed to decorate them. It's just the perfect place to let our creativity flow and all she asks for is a \$5 fee for coming out and having fun.

Whether it's stamping or embossing, there's something for everyone to do. It's so easy to go out to her shop and think I'll only be there a few minutes, but let me tell you the hours pass before you know it because there is so much fun when you get lost to creativity.

The fee is part of Rhonda's way of giving to the American Cancer Society that will be given to the cancer fighting cause.

But there is more. If anyone is interested in placing an order with Rhonda and keep coming back to share in the fun or take the creativity home and aspire to

having hours of fun, Rhonda will be giving a percentage of her commission to the American Cancer Society.

Buy your luminaries and then give Rhonda a call at 871-2332. She is located on U.S. 36 in what was the old barbecue barn.

Let's show the other counties how many ways we can think of raising funds for such a worthy cause.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Durham  
2008 Event Chair  
Relay for Life  
Norton*

## Your political connection

★ **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