

Why dogs are man's best friend

There was once a handyman who had a dog named Mace. Mace was a great dog except he had one weird habit: he liked to eat grass — not just a little bit, but in quantities that would make a lawnmower blush. And nothing, it seemed, could cure him of it. One day, the handyman lost his wrench in the tall grass while he was working outside. He looked and looked, but it was nowhere to be found. As it was getting dark, he gave up for the night and decided to look the next morning. When he awoke, he went outside and saw that his dog had eaten all the grass in the area, around where he had been working, and his wrench now lay in plain sight, glinting in the sun.

Going out to get his wrench, he called the dog over to him, looked him in the eyes, patted his head, gave him a big hug and said, "A grazing Mace, how sweet the hound, that saved a wrench for me."

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Some television commercials, although intended to be serious, end up other than that. One example that stands out in my mind is the highway patrolman who stops some guy wearing a motorcycle helmet half filled with beer. The intent is to drive home the point that drunks will be taken off the road and jailed. My first reaction to the commercial was to laugh. But drunk driving isn't funny, and it can have fatal consequences. So why this kind of commercial? It would be interesting to learn how many young people have tried to imitate this ad. It's the kind of thing that promotes foolish and potentially fatal behavior. It's a no-brainer, remove it.

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Then there's the one showing a gal attired in a law enforcement uniform, pulling some guy over, and when he shows her his driver's license she asks to see his AARP card. Of course it's a commercial for AARP auto insurance. While it doesn't have fatal overtones, it pushes the envelop in that it gives the impression law enforcement is out selling insurance for AARP. Talk about being deceptive. Shame on you, AARP (yes, I am a card carrying member).

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I was returning a phone call the other evening. The number wasn't familiar at all, but I decided to respond anyway. Well, after three or four rings, someone answered. It was the most broken English I've ever heard. I managed to make out the words, "How can we help you?" I told the voice on the other end, "Oh, I'm sorry. The instructions were to press 1 for English. I must have pressed the wrong one." Then I hung up.

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Wasn't immigration one of the hot button issues when this presidential campaign got underway so many long months ago? You don't hear it even mentioned anymore. In fact, polls show that it is ranked near the bottom of the issues list. Is the much-hyped fence being built? Are they still coming across the border? What gives? Neither Sen. McCain, who lives in a border state, nor Sen. Obama have been talking immigration. Matter of fact, issues don't seem to be the focus anymore, not since, anyway the Alaskan bombshell was dropped into the midst of the campaign by Sen. McCain. It's time we recognize Gov. Sarah Palin as a **candidate**, and only a **candidate**, for the second highest office in the land. Let's get on with it. Let's talk issues, not personalities. This is serious business and we can't be playing games with our nation's future.

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And then Sen. Joe Biden, Sen. Obama's running mate, told a crowd Wednesday while out campaigning, that Sen. Hillary Clinton would have been a better choice for vice-president than was he. Why in the world would he say that now, instead of when he was being vetted? Maybe because Sen. Biden too often shoots from the lip. I picked up on that during the primary election. And I would imagine Obama's campaign managers pulled him aside, pulled his ears while stuffing a sock in his mouth!

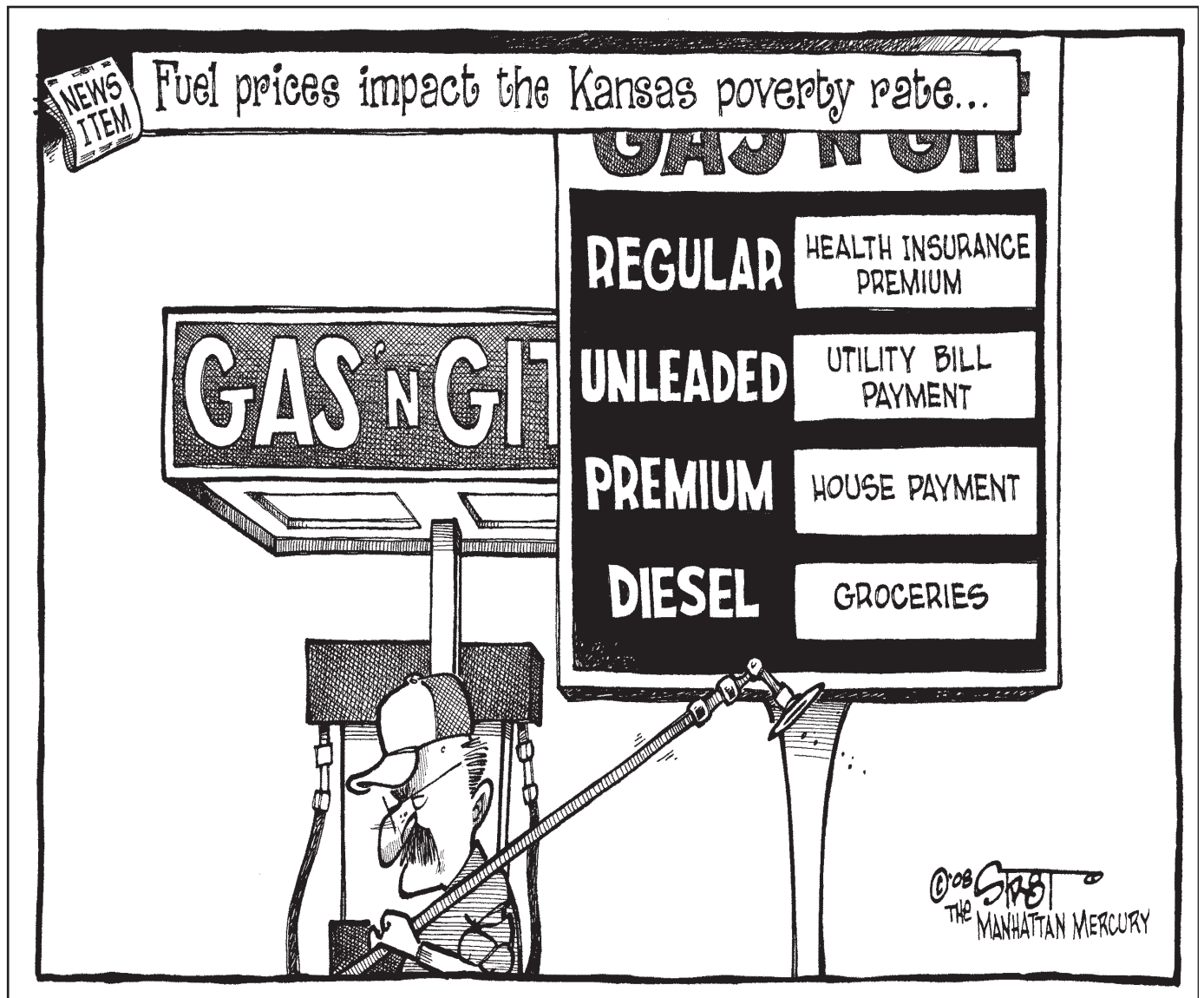
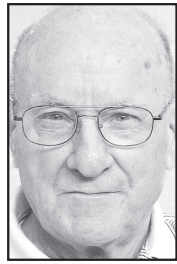
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This election, after all votes are counted on Nov. 4, will not be decided on how the two presidential candidates stood on the issues, but, unfortunately, it will boil down simply to the acceptance or rejection of one person — Gov. Sarah Palin. That's how I see it.

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Have a good evening! And keep in mind, as you prepare for services at your place of worship this weekend, that our creator keeps a running tab on our behavior as we campaign to win entry into His kingdom.

Good Evening Norton
Tom Dreiling



Facts, not superstition badly needed

Eighteen million voters backed Hillary Clinton and some of those now say they will cast their votes for John McCain and Sarah Palin. One can only surmise from such action the only thing important to those voters is gender. Now that is a scary thought and unfortunately, as voiced by others, has set women's rights back fifty years.

The reason we back political parties and have platforms is to promote an agenda we see as desirable for our country. Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin both have strong ideas about how to best lead our government in a positive way, but they are different ideas, very different. And it is insulting to both to even believe they are interchangeable.

If those voters are voting for their candidate solely because the candidate

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



underscore how little we understand about the process.

This time between the conventions and the election is when we analyze what we believe and why. It is the time we promote our agenda, outline areas of compromise and assure one another that either candidate will work for the country.

One may be pro-choice, but anti abortion; supportive of our men and women in uniform but oppose the war; believe in the separation of church and state, but pray for a country with religious freedoms.

It does not benefit nor enhance a candidate, a political party or a country when the issues at the forefront are based on non-issues such as gender or race. Let us work towards a better understanding of our beliefs based on facts not superstition. (mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net)

There are several ways to define alcoholism

Hello again! I left you with the definition of alcoholism in my last column to ponder. Today, we are going to begin talking about different aspects of this definition. You will find the full definition below:

"Alcoholism is a primary, chronic disease with genetic, psychosocial, and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations. The disease is often progressive and fatal. It is characterized by continuous or periodic: impaired control over drinking, preoccupation with the drug alcohol, use of alcohol despite adverse consequences, and distortions in thinking, most notably denial."

"Alcoholism is a primary" — what

Where There's Hope
Carla Moore

does this mean? A medical dictionary defines 'primary' as, "A disease arising spontaneously and not associated with or caused by a previous disease or injury." In other words, alcoholism and addiction are not CAUSED by other things. People are not alcoholic (or addicted) because they had a difficult childhood, are in a bad marriage or have a stressful job. If someone is addicted, they would be addicted regardless of external factors.

When we talk about addiction being a "chronic disease", this means a "disease that is long-lasting or recurrent." Once an alcoholic or addict, always an alcoholic or addict. Once we lose the ability to control our drinking or using, we will never regain the ability to control our intake or predict the outcome of our use. This is comparable to diabetes and heart disease. The disease is manageable as long as we stay within the limitations presented by the disease. There is hope for a productive, meaningful life for alcoholics and addicts!

I think this is enough for now. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at cmoore@valleyhope.com.

Let's hear it for the Norton Blue Jays' football team

To the Editor,

An amazing thing happened in Norton last weekend.

First of all, on Friday night the NCHS Bluejay football team stood up to a pretty fair squad from Phillipsburg, and they defeated them in double-overtime to make us all "proud to be a Bluejay!"

But then in shifts starting at 8 a.m. the next morning and not ending until late in the afternoon, coaches and players volunteered their time to help paint the house of a local lady in need.

They did this after working their tails

off in the ball game that ran later than normal, and some even attended the FCCLA sponsored dance after the game.

Many of the volunteers came from or went to their own jobs before or after their shifts. Some were the "walking wounded" who were banged up during the hard fought game.

Still they were there doing their part to help someone out and make Norton a place they can be proud of.

I am almost always extremely proud of our sports teams as they have very successfully competed over the years, but I have never been more proud of our football team than I was Saturday as I watched them work with their coaches on this project.

A HUGE DOUBLE THUMBS UP to the coaches and players of our Norton Community High School football team!

David Will Norton

Your Turn

To... Gene Wiltfong, on your trip to Washington, D.C. (from a friend)

To... Marge Snyder, on your birthday celebration! (called in)

To... Tony and Verla Grysch, on your great improvement to Norton's downtown area. (called in)

To... Gloria Nelson, for being so patient and not becoming discouraged with the progress on the Washington Street Park. (called in)

(To include a name or names in this column, please e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, call either 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)

Obama? McCain?
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