

Your turn... Reader sees Telegram differently

To the Editor,

I was interested to read Sonya Montgomery's recent letter and wanted to show the flip side of the coin. I think the paper is much improved from the days when I worked there. I also believe it is more widely read because there is more of local interest.

As far as school and arts council activities — if they want their releases in the paper it should be their responsibility to either submit them or ask for a reporter's assistance to help them write up the information well ahead of time to ensure timely publication. Library coverage is excellent, although I would like to see a regular book review column by local readers.

It seems to me that music and scholarly pursuits like the spelling bee, drama, forensics, FFA and drafting contests, festivals and such are getting more publicity, not less, since the change in management. I like the picture sections with the students' names and parents' names and I always look to see who sponsored these pages and more importantly, who does not.

Now I am not a sports fan but I know there are those who are and who delight in reading Dick Boyd's detailed reports. Senior citizens who can no longer go to see the games and competitions, enjoy both the pictures and articles. When my husband was at the Andbe Home I read the entire *Telegram* to him almost every day and several gentlemen would come gather 'round to hear the accounts of the football games and wrestling matches.

In my humble opinion, you have just a nice balance of stories and pictures that include not only the Norton community but Almena, Lenora and Jennings activities. A number of my friends here at Lee's Summit read my copy and marvel at all that goes on in rural Kansas. They particularly comment on the generous hearts of the people when they read of the many fund raisers that take place. And they love to read the country correspondent columns.

I say THUMBS UP to *The Telegram*, to Norton and to western Kansas where The Best Truly Begins. How I miss it all!

Liza Deines

1098 NE Independence Ave., #230
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Things also happen in Norton

To the Editor,

I am writing concerning a letter that I didn't get an answer to. During the Christmas holidays our home caught fire and the entire first floor was burned. The firemen were there several hours and every car stopped to ask what damage was done.

There was a loss of everything in the kitchen, living room and the TV room. The entire walls in the TV room were stripped and all that one can see is 2X4's.

My daughter and I bought this home in early spring. I've lived with her several years, both in Colorado Springs and here. I am 85 years old and I'm living at the Andbe Home and this was a terrible shock to me.

This was the same week that a family was completely burned and a request was for furniture, bedroom and kitchen items.

I have lived in a number of homes in small towns and every little incident was in the newspaper the following day. This was unusual, as the Weiminsler dog barked and woke my daughter and she couldn't see the steps so her only hope was to go down to where I slept. Her only answer was to jump off the roof! The dog refused to go follow her. My daughter is retired from the Air Force and is very active and does all the house repairing, the lawn, and both mechanical and power tools, and thank God she wasn't injured.

I enjoy your newspaper and small towns have a lot of activity.
Sincerely,

Lela and Pat Brooks
Norton

Thumbs Up...

To... **Shane Miller and Melissa McClain**, for all you do as our district's school counselors. The proclamation was a fitting tribute. (e-mail)

To... **Mrs. Sebelius**, on your 5th grade Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl Team, and 6th grade Knowledge Master Open Team, on capturing first prize in the state in their respective competitions. (e-mail from a proud mother)

To... **Jim Rowh** and friend, for getting an inattentive driver out of a snow bank in front of your store, Pure Prairie Natural Foods, during the snowstorm. (-td)

To... **Steve Streck and Carrol Hall**, for sharing your story with our town's newspaper. Fifty-eight years is something to brag about. (called in)

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

Telegram OpinionLine: (785) 877-6908, or 3361

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: telegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Tom Dreiling..... editor and publisher

Christie Anderson..... advertising

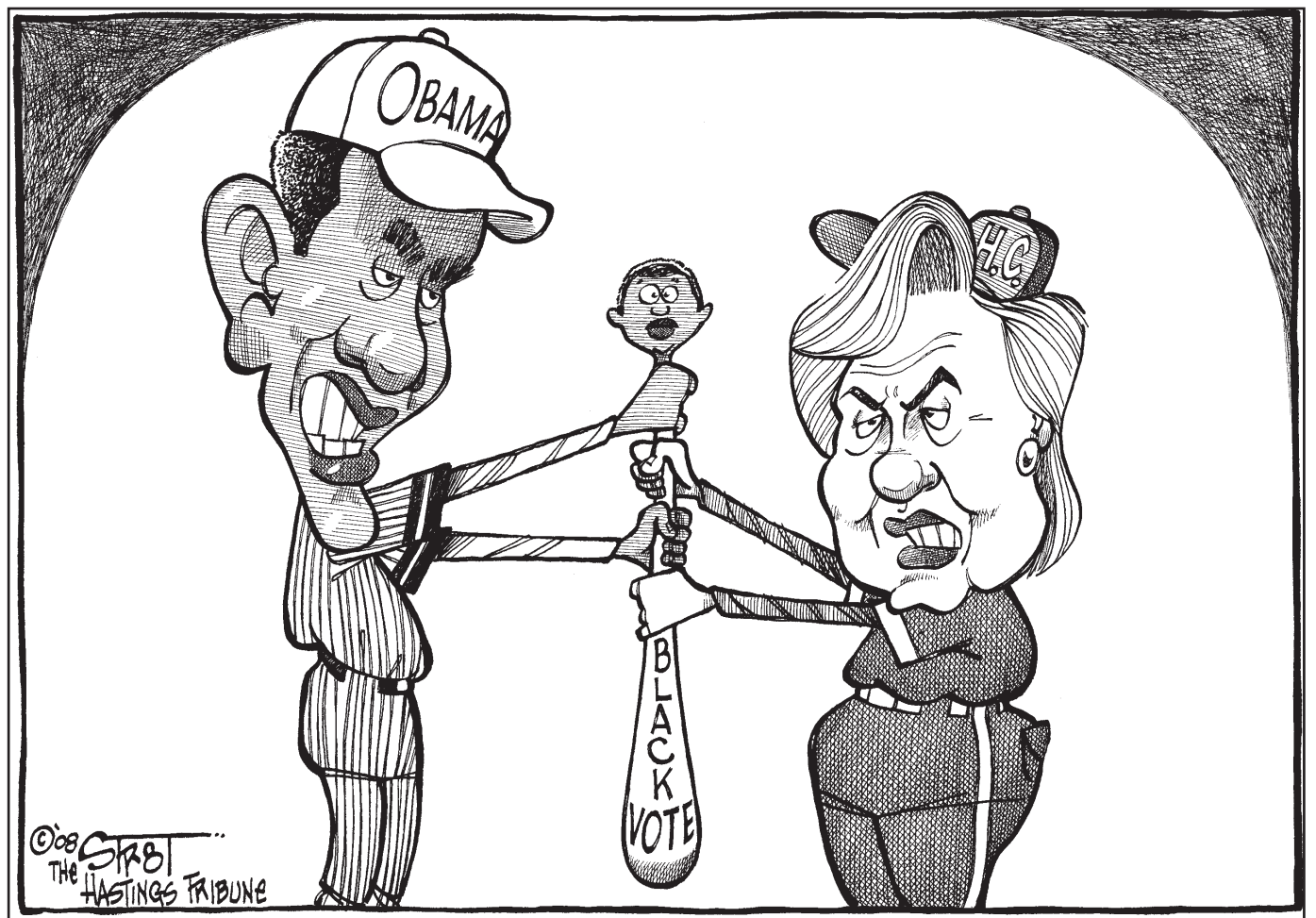
Veronica Monier..... staff reporter

Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay sports

Carolyn Plotts..... society editor

Sherry Hickman..... bookkeeping/circulation

Vicki Henderson..... computer production



You color the back, we'll color the front

It was nice to get some positive feedback on our paper of last Friday, containing colored photos. It happens again with today's paper. What gives? Simply put, the back page of last Friday's issue (and today's) contained an ad in full color from Nex-Tech, Nex-Tech Wireless and Rural Telephone. Any time a business places an ad on the back page in full color, that allows us to color up the front page. Color doesn't just happen, it is quite a process and involves several people by the time all is said and done. Details on full color ads, spot color ads, size, and all other types of advertising, are available by calling Christie at (785) 877-3361.

-td-

It looks like Sen. John McCain is in the driver's seat as he continues his pathway toward the Republican nomination for president. He is leading in the delegate count with 720 and Mike Huckabee with 194. These figures are the result of voting and caucusing on "Super Tuesday." It will be interesting to see if the Norton County caucus site on Saturday builds on McCain's lead, or if they decide to perhaps back Huckabee. I didn't mention former Gov. Mitt Romney because he dropped out of the race on Thursday.

On the Democratic side, Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton were separated by only four votes in the delegate count when this was written. On Super Tuesday, Obama won 13 states and Clinton 8, plus American Samoa. Despite Clinton taking New York and California, Obama is still running neck-and-neck with her.

In Kansas at the Tuesday caucus, Obama received 74 percent to 26 percent of the vote. In raw numbers, he rolled up 27,172 votes to 9,462 for Clinton.

The Clinton campaign is apparently having money problems. Sen. Clinton, it was reported Wednesday, invested \$5 million of her own money in the campaign, the same day the Obama campaign

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



had money left over so now we're going to SeaWorld."

-td-

I had been hearing on Wichita television sports reports about Coach Shane Cordell at Little River who this season picked up his 500th girls' basketball coaching win. The name "Cordell" rang a bell because a guy named Clair Cordell was a basketball standout at what was then St. Joseph's Military Academy (known as the Hays Cadets) when I was a student there. Clair graduated a year after I did and at a school that size everybody knew everybody. He was a tall kid, a great player and just one of those people everybody liked.

But curiosity got the best of me because I wanted to know if there was any connection between Shane and Clair Cordell. So, I sent Clair an e-mail. He responded quickly with a telephone call, and sure enough Coach Shane Cordell is Clair's nephew. Shane, I learned, has been coaching girls' basketball at Little River High School for 28 years. Additionally, he is also football coach and is closing in on his 200th victory in that sport.

His girls' basketball teams have earned 4 Class 1A state championships, and his girls hold a Kansas record 91 straight victories.

But Shane's involvement in school activities doesn't end there, he is also high school counselor.

If I understood the telephone conversation correctly, Shane was also inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame. But most importantly, Shane is the father of 8 kids.

Learning all of this brings to mind the title of a soap opera, "As the World Turns."

-td-

Have a good evening. And when you are in church this weekend, please pray for the families who lost 55 loved ones in the tornadoes that swept through four southern states this week.

collected \$4.5 million from on-line supporters. Sounds a little bit like the problem that drove Rudy Giuliani out of the race.

I guess the saying is, "Without dough you don't go!"

-td-

A blonde motorist was about two hours from San Diego when she was flagged down by a man whose truck had broken down. The man walked up to the car and asked, "Are you going to San Diego?" "Sure," she answered, "do you need a lift?"

"Not for me. I'll be spending the next three hours fixing my truck. My problem is I've got two chimpanzees in the back which have to be taken to the San Diego Zoo. They're a bit stressed already so I don't want to keep them on the road all day. Could you possibly take them to the zoo for me? I'll give you \$100 for your trouble."

"I'd be happy to," she says.

So the two chimpanzees were placed in the back seat of the car and carefully strapped into their seat belts. Off they went.

Five hours later, the truck driver was driving through the heart of San Diego when suddenly he was horrified! There was the lady walking down the street and holding hands with the two chimps, much to the amusement of a big crowd. With a screech of brakes he pulled off the road and ran over to her, yelling, "What the heck are you doing here? I gave you \$100 to take these chimpanzees to the zoo!"

"Yes, I know you did," she said, "but we

Maybe I could take my pet chicken, too

Three cheers for all the good sports out there! We watched the Oklahoma-Oklahoma State game Monday night. I wasn't shocked to hear what the Oklahoma crowd was chanting at the end of the game after it became apparent they would win. But the clarity with which it came over the air on a nationally televised game ought to cause the OU fans a little embarrassment.

I told my K-State student daughter I hoped there would not be any chickens on the basketball court before the Jan. 30 game with KU. I don't know why I felt compelled to lecture her, she doesn't even hold tickets.

Being just naturally sassy, (where does that come from?) she replied, "It's all in fun, but is too bad that chicken died last year."

My thought process sort of spiraled out of control from there. So many questions!

First: A chicken died last year? I did not even know that! The whole custom is just so unfortunate that I had never given a thought to what happened to the chickens once they were let loose (and rounded up again). Do they serve hot wings at concession stands?

It begs the question: How do they round them up? Daughter Elizabeth says teaching kindergartners (especially the

Back Home Nancy Hagman



first few weeks) is like herding chickens. If you have ever been around chickens or kindergartners you know it's not an easy task.

Some K-State students camped out all day to get the best seats possible for the game. It was soooooo cold. Here's a question we have all probably asked ourselves at some point: Just how smart are college students?

I do not know if any chickens made it into Bramlage Wednesday. It seems doubtful because, remember, the really crazed fans spent the day standing in line in the parking lot. What would they have done with a chicken?

I was in charge of the chickens when I was young. I enjoyed my chores but chickens are messy, they squawk, they would not just snuggle down in a coat or something.

I've never understood how even under the best of circumstances kids were able to sneak them into a game.

As we did the post mortem on the game a friend brought up another interesting question: Where do they get the chickens from? She wondered if they raid the campus poultry barn or something. As she observed, not even many farmers keep chickens anymore.

What a valid point! This whole chicken in the Coliseum thing does not just happen. Only a certain type of person could pull it off! It requires advance planning, stealth, and courage. College students are smart!

On second thought it might just be the result of a bunch of kids sitting around a beer keg. If one person has Grandma with laying hens over by, oh say, Wamego; an unstoppable force has been set in motion!

When I went to college I was shocked to hear the fans boo. But I did it! Because that's what you do! They say one good thing about living to be 100 is no peer pressure!

When it comes to cheering on our favorite teams we will always have peers. If God allows me to live to be 100 I think I'd like to celebrate by going to a K-State/KU basketball game.

I promise to be a good sport. I pledge not to boo or shout any obscenities. I will be a very dignified old lady. Do you suppose they'll let me take my pet chicken?