

'Mommy, I have to go to the bathroom!'

It would seem to us that one of the basic needs of every man, woman and child is being overlooked in the plans for a new county emergency medical building. And with the cost of the project expected to be in the neighborhood of \$700,000, what's another thousand or two going to matter?

We carried a story in our June 27 issue, stating the basement of the new structure would be used for storage and as a storm shelter. The storm shelter part prompted our concern.

When conditions warrant use of a storm shelter, anxiety generally sets in. And if a prolonged stay results, well, there is a basic need this storm shelter could easily provide in a new building.

Toilets!

The report says plumbing will be put in so one or more bathrooms could be added in the future if needed. Fellows, the need is there. If you've ever been in an anxious situation, you know of what we speak.

There are many storm shelters that don't provide bathrooms, but in new construction if an area is so designated, that basic human need needs to be part of the planning.

Can't you just hear a little voice crying out, "Mommy, I have to go to the bathroom!" And Mommy says, "You'll have to hold it, honey." You just don't know how long that hold will be. Or maybe you are getting a bit antsy, and move from one foot to the other, wishing there was some place to, well...no need to elaborate.

We aren't trying to make a mountain out of a mole hill. We're just simply wondering aloud.

'Tis all.

—Tom Dreiling

These questions will be answered in November

Is Barack Obama a patriot? Was he before he started wearing an American Flag pin? Does it matter whether he salutes the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem?

What about his wife, Michelle?

Do we care if she'd ever been proud of her country before her husband's victory in the primaries?

Does all that matter?

Yes, and maybe no.

Everything the candidates say, everything they do, everything their families and friends and supporters do and say, means something.

Sen. Obama didn't used to wear a flag pin, not until opponents started to point that fact out.

Now, he wears one some days.

That probably says something about how he feels about patriotism and the flag. Or maybe it only says something about how he feels about flag pins.

A lot of people don't wear one every day. That includes a lot of politicians.

It's a sign Barack Obama is not Lou Dobbs, the anti-immigration CNN commentator.

But not a sign, necessarily, that he's anti-American. If he didn't love this country, why would he give up his former life to serve it?

His wife's comments, while not exactly politic when you think about them, should not be surprising, coming from a young, activist woman in her situation.

She didn't say she didn't love her country. She just said — whether she meant it or not — that she'd never been proud of it before. Probably, she meant she never had been so proud of it before.

And you can't fault her for that. A lot of people might agree.

Then there's the comments this weekend by former Gen. Wesley Clark, who disparaged Sen. John McCain's military record by saying it didn't necessarily qualify him to be commander in chief.

Gen. Clark, a former NATO commander, probably thinks his experience is superior, but voters have said otherwise. His campaign for president, like Sen. McCain's fighter jet, went down in flames.

Capt. McCain, a Navy pilot who spent five years as a prisoner of war after his plane was shot down over Vietnam, took offense.

And while it's true that the Arizona senator and probable Republican nominee never advanced to flag rank, as his father had, he has served for years in the U.S. Senate, overseeing in part the nation's foreign affairs.

In any event, his military experience far exceeds Sen. Obama's.

Who's most qualified to be commander in chief?

The voters will have to decide.

Our view is that voters will divine something about the Obamas' thinking from their comments and actions. Some will like it, some will not.

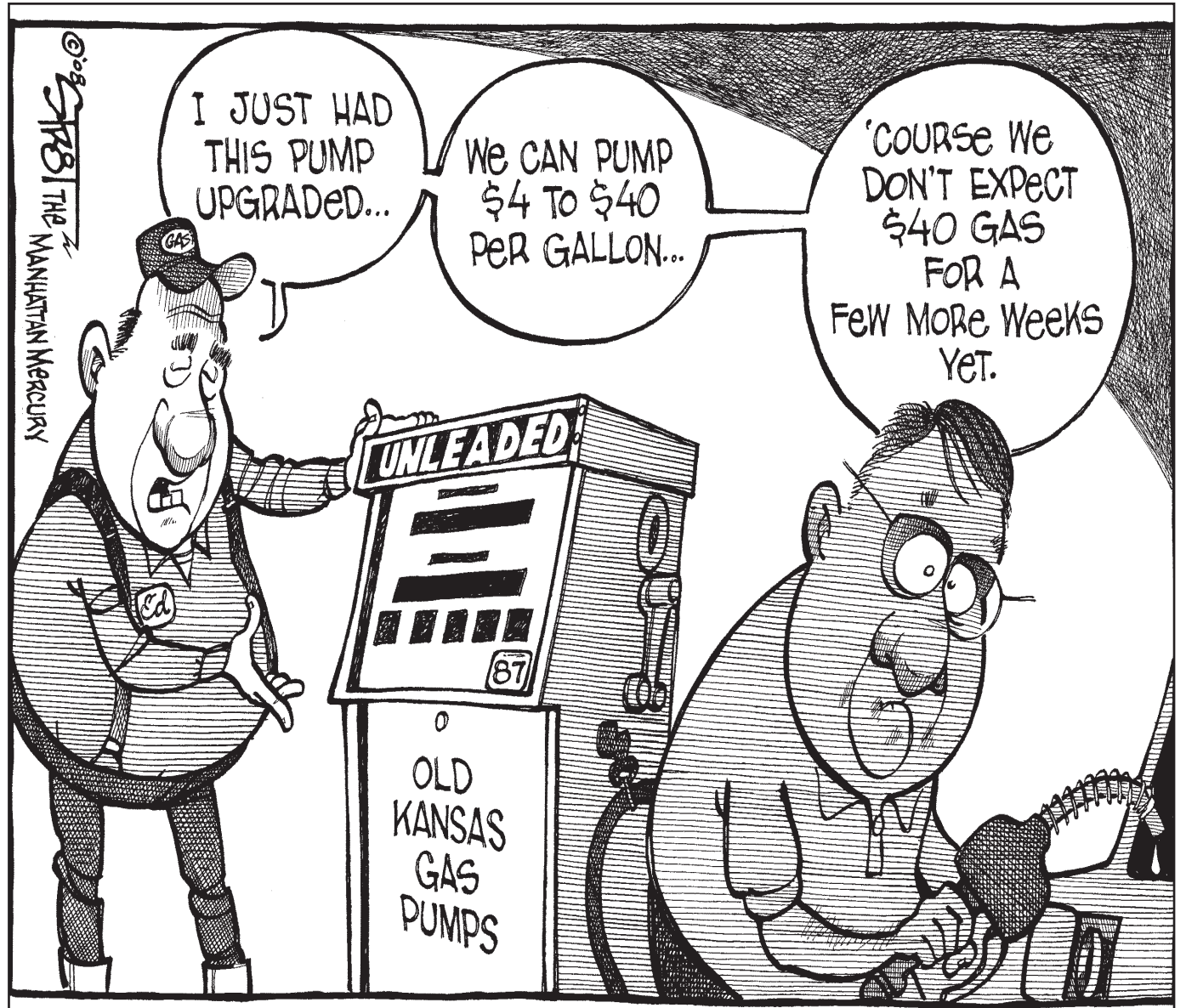
The same can be said for the candidates' experience.

Some may want a leader who's never been in the military, who brings "fresh" thinking to the White House after a few years in the Senate.

Others will want a seasoned veteran of both worlds.

In November, we'll know.

— Steve Haynes



Cherries becoming another bumper crop

Wheat isn't the only crop being harvested around here. Everyone with cherry trees is reporting a bumper crop.

We took some young friends with us last week to a generous neighbor's place in the country to raid his cherry tree.

It was absolutely loaded. Every branch was laden with clusters of ripe, juicy cherries. In record time we had about six gallons of cherries picked.

Here's the catch. Six hands picking cherries is much faster than two hands operating the pitter. I did it in shifts though, about three gallons at a time, and it wasn't too bad.

Over the three-day weekend I turned into a jam/jelly factory. I even made a cherry cobbler.

I've gone through about 20 pounds of sugar and the end is not in sight, yet. What

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



letters he's received from old friends, neighbors and readers. They add a bright spot to his day.

-ob-

Perhaps it's irony — perhaps it's just bad timing. Nonetheless, I've been quite verbal about how we hadn't yet turned on our central air conditioning this season. Bragging about how the house stays cool for so long.

Temps climbed into the triple digits this weekend and I headed for the thermostat. I heard that reassuring "click" and it kicked on. The unit ran and ran and ran — but, the house did not cool down. Air was coming out of the vents, but it was as warm as ever.

A call is in order to my friendly neighborhood appliance repairman. Next year I won't be so "cocky" until I've tested the unit to make sure it works.

I didn't have time to work up landed in the freezer. Just be prepared — if you are on my Christmas list, you're going to get cherry jell or jam for a present.

-ob-

We have some good news to report on Jim's dad. He is improved and one of his nurses said the ultimate goal is to fit him with a prosthesis. That is our hope, too. A prosthesis would give him the independence and mobility he needs.

He has really enjoyed all the cards and

Forget Orscheln's, support what we've got

To the Editor;

I have never wanted to get involved in other peoples affairs, but a local situation has developed that gives me cause for concern, namely the thought that there is a movement to bring an Orscheln's Farm Store to Norton.

It is my understanding that Orscheln's would come to Norton if the county commissioners will provide them with ten acres of land at the county's expense. (Norton Taxpayers expense) roughly three to five thousand dollars an acre or thirty to fifty thousand dollars. Also they would expect the county commissioners or someone to provide a new building, roughly one hundred and fifty thousand to three hundred thousand dollars and a tax abatement for X numbers of years.

Now probably that is the way economic development business is carried on with large corporate organizations. However, there is a question as to whether this is really economic development or unfair business practice against farm stores built by local Norton businesspeople who borrowed money plus interest to build their businesses at their own expense and provide the same service that Orscheln's would provide, namely Kowpoke Farm Supply and Roy's Sales and Service.

I came to Norton 54 years ago. There were seven implement dealerships in town at that time and five new auto dealerships. Well obviously time has taken its toll. The implement dealerships and the new auto dealerships have all gone by the wayside.

Outwardly those two farm supply stores seem like small business compared to Orscheln's which seems like a "complete" store. However, a walk through either of the two local stores mentioned above and you find that they each have

Your Turn

over a half million to a million and a half dollars inventory of the highest quality parts plus capital outlay. To better serve the Norton area farmers, Roy's has expanded several times and at his own expense. Roy's also provide complete tractor service and farm equipment repair which would be sorely missed if forced out of business by a corporate giant that has no expenses to establish themselves and compete with the local businesses that pay their own way.

After the implement dealers closed shop there was Wheelers and then Country General, both of which were a far cry from being a true farm supply store.

Kowpoke has just purchased the former Ace Hardware and Lumber Store and moved up on Highway 36 and is adding a new thirty-five by eighty foot addition to the front of their building for more complete service to the Norton area and at their own expense which will run over one hundred thousand dollars of which the concrete cost alone was thirteen thousand dollars which was purchased here at Norton. When Kowpoke is finished stocking their inventory, they will be a complete farm supply store with appliances and hardware. Roy's just added another one hundred thousand dollar expansion to his business at his own expense. Roy's, Western Diesel, and New Age Aluminum, all up on highway 36, had to pay to have fire plugs run to their businesses after the New Age fire because there were no monies for the county to do the projects.

Norton is more than fortunate. We have two auto parts stores. NAPA, recently purchased by Gary Engel and CarQuest, recently purchased by Corey and Amie

Menagh, each locally owned and purchased by those individuals at their own expenses. Engel's also sell and service lawn mowers and lawn products and power tools. Pamida is huge in garden supplies, lawn mowers and lawn supplies. Ag Valley Co-op sells farm supply materials such as water tanks, fence post, chemicals, and others and operate a service station and elevators. Goodyear Tires, locally owned and operated by Dan and Theresa Lauer and recently expanded, provide farm and tractor tires. Need a rough terrain vehicle on the farm, check in at Norton Sports Center, owned and operated by Curtis and Debbie Eveleigh. All of the above provide the same products and more offered by Orscheln's.

All of the above businesses took out loans, pay interest, pay their own way and profits made by local businesses stay in Norton, profits made by corporate businesses don't stay in the local community. It is my understanding that Orscheln's will only agree to a one year contract with the county commissioners and/or whoever would finance them. They could pull out at any time leaving someone with a huge expensive building and force them to re-negotiate at their terms. They would also hire only a minimum number of employees at minimum wage.

For the 50 plus years that I have lived in Norton, I have always heard of the threat of Corporate Farms competing with the Family Farms. How about the threat of Corporate Farm Supply Stores competing against the "Local Farm Supply Stores?" We have our share of local entrepreneurs. Surely they need local respect and support.

Respectfully yours,

Jake Durham
Norton Citizen

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. Kredbiel, editor



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

STAFF

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

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