

So, who are we endorsing?

The final full week. That's where we are in this presidential campaign. At this time next week we will be in the voting booth, unless we voted early, to determine the fate of Senators Barack Obama and John McCain.

One of those two will become president on Jan. 20, 2009. Waiting in the wings, should something happen to the successful candidate, are Senator Joe Biden and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

You hear pundits say, "We don't vote for vice president..." Maybe this is the election we will. Both claim they couldn't have done better with their picks. They are very comfortable that either Gov. Palin (McCain) or Sen. Biden (Obama) are ready to step in should the need arise.

We can only hope voters keep focused, that voters remember what is being said today by either candidate or either candidate's surrogates, has little, or no traction. They are in the home stretch and anything goes. We've been through it before and are in the midst of it again. It's nothing new, it's politics.

That all said, one would expect an endorsement by The Telegram at this juncture in the campaign. If you have been waiting, wait no longer. We would simply tell you that if you had a friendly bet as to where the newspaper stands on this election, call off your bet and direct those funds to your favorite charity in our community.

We don't endorse. We vote. That's what really counts. Please join us at the polls Nov. 4.

— Tom Dreiling

There was only one Paul Newman

Women under the age of 60 may not understand this, but the rest of us shed a little tear when we heard about the death of Paul Newman. He was one of the last of Hollywood's gorgeous leading men. His incredible, baby blue eyes had mesmerized women for decades. True or not, there is a story making its way through the internet that exemplifies the impact he had on women.

Mr. Newman and his family spent a lot of time in a little New England town where they could be "regular folk." A female newcomer to town had stopped at the town's ice cream/bakery shop for a double-dip, chocolate ice cream cone. Seated at the counter with a doughnut and a cup of coffee was Paul Newman. She instantly recognized him, but didn't want to act star-struck. After all, she told herself, she was a happily married woman with three children. She nodded to him as she placed her order and took her change. She left the store but when she got into her car she realized she had her change in her hand but she did not have her ice cream cone. Going back into the store, she expected to see the clerk holding her cone. But, he did not have it. She looked around feeling very flustered.

Mr. Newman caught the woman's eye and said, "It's in your purse."

We'll miss you Paul.
-ob-

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



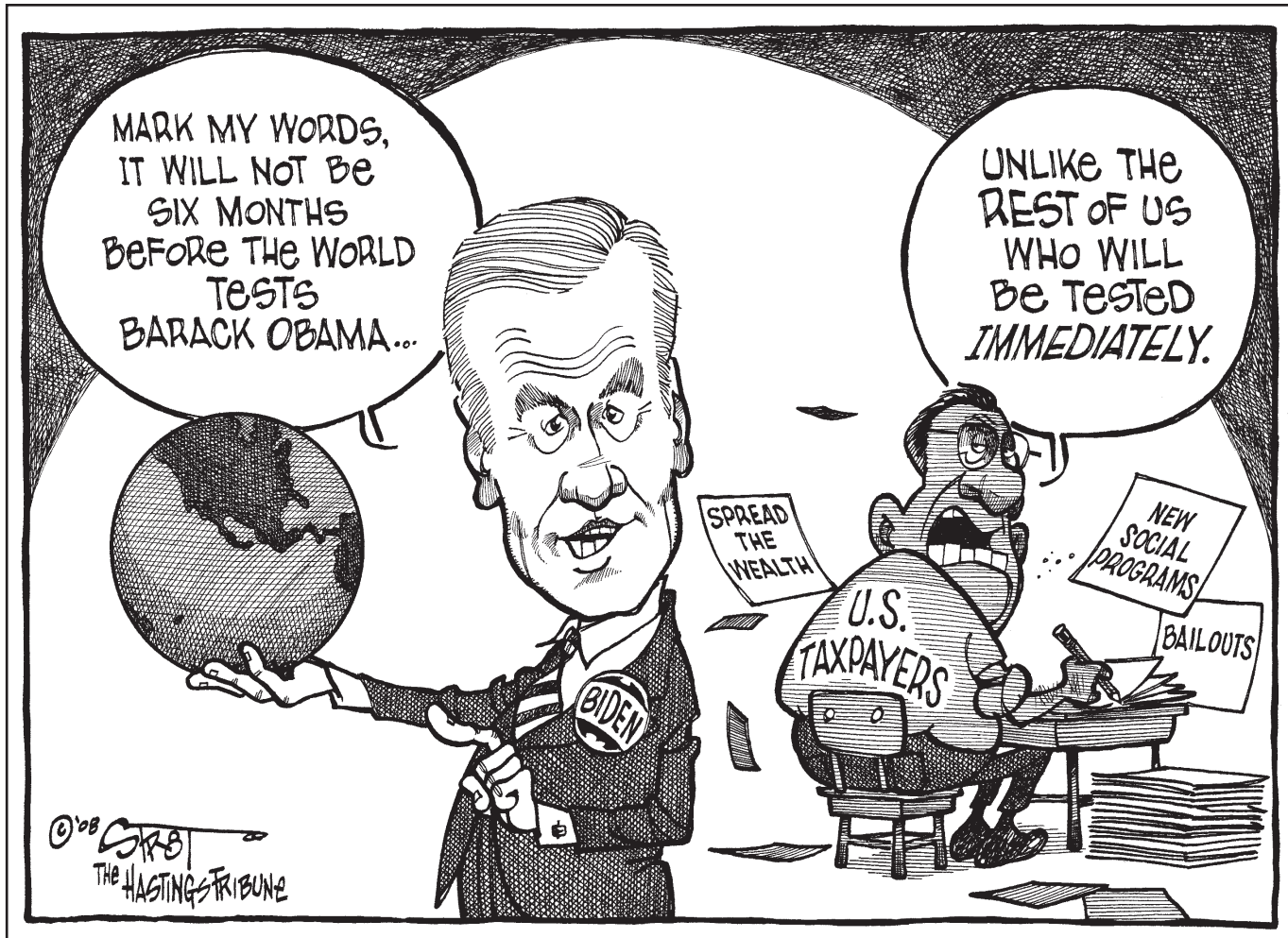
Bad weather last week kept Jim home from work several days. We had fun playing house and spending some extra time together. I have found an apple cake recipe Jim loves and have already made it twice.

His injured finger (remember the nail gun incident) was still hurting so we went to see a bone specialist one of those rainy days. New X-rays revealed the nail did, indeed, chip one side of the finger's joint. So, for now and forever, he will have a bone fragment and a sliver of cartilage "floating" around in there. Nothing to do, but "grin and bear it".

We still realize it could have been so much worse.

-ob-

A friend of ours is going through some rough times and had to give up his rented home. We are trying to help and have been packing up his things. We worked late one night loading boxes and moving furniture. After dragging ourselves home Jim said, "Carolyn, we aren't as young as they were when they moved this stuff in."



Your Turn

It's time to 'thank' this hard working commissioner

Letter to the Editor,

Today, we have 24/7 news coverage with people showing no civility or respect. Instead they yell, rant and interrupt one another. Today's issues are no more important than issues of the past, yet the civility, respect and recognition of everyone's free speech right has virtually disappeared. Even the uncontested races for Norton County Commissioner are contentious. This letter is not written with contention but with thanks to one county commissioner, John Miller.

John Miller is running uncontested, yet I here all kinds of misrepresentations of what the Norton County Commissioners have done. The sad part is that John makes an effort to speak in Lenora once a month and only a few people bother to attend. I realize that we all feel we have other things to do, yet by missing those meetings, you miss out on all the work and effort John puts into his job as county commissioner.

John goes to state meetings to stay informed. He also gives the county's view in hopes of directing, as much as possible,

the state's actions. John has opened many State Legislatures' eyes on the burden the state will place on the counties with unfunded mandates.

John Miller is a three term Norton County Commissioner. In his tenure, he has served two terms on the Kansas Association of Counties board, serving as finance chairman and chairman for the Employee Benefit Trust, and on the KCAMP (Kansas County Association Multi-line pool) board since 1998, serving as chairman, vice chairman and claims controller.

He has been nominated by two governors to serve on state committees — the Juvenile Justice Authority Task Force (by Governor Graves) and the Community Advocacy Committee (by Governor Sebelius).

John works across party lines putting Norton County first. We are very fortunate that that John's family has taken on the extra load to give John the time required to serve Norton County.

Last Tuesday's meeting in Lenora, I listened to all the issues and actions the

commissioners were working through: land fill, airport, ambulance, road closure, roads, bridges, new land taxation, FEMA funding, juvenile detention and more, and I felt it was important to express my appreciation.

Norton County would have had to fund many of these concerns fully, had John not made the trips to Topeka or elsewhere and found other funding options. If other funding options had not been found, Norton County's tax mills would have been raised, just as neighboring counties have had to do. Higher taxation causes businesses to move. I would hate to lose any of the great businesses we are fortunate to have as employers in Norton County.

Politics and religion were once considered unrefined topics of conversation. It is my hope that this letter is viewed as informative and appreciative.

Thanks again Norton County Commissioner John Miller. Keep on asking the questions and holding our representatives feet to the fire.

Steven L. Berry
Lenora

Well known Christian entertainer chooses sinful path

To the Editor,

"Christian songwriter/singer Ray Boltz, declares he's gay..."

And divorces his wife of 30 years. He is famous for such Christian classics as, "The Anchor Holds", "I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb", and, "Thank You". Many have seen him in concert, including some of my children, where they were encouraged in their faith and worshiped God.

In an interview with gay magazine, The Washington Blade ...

"His [Ray's] faith was in transition — tenants he'd adhered to all his life suddenly were up for reconsideration, but there was a peace he hadn't felt before.

"I had a lot of questions [about faith], but at the bottom of everything was a feeling that I didn't hate myself anymore, so in that sense I felt closer to God." (www.washingtonblade.com/2008/9-12/arts/feature/13258.cfm?page=3)

He is now performing at "gay churches" in front of "gay Christians".

Every Christian struggles against sin. Our enemies are worldliness, our own flesh (the propensity to sin) and the Devil himself. No matter what the sinful habit is...adultery, drinking, a violent temper, greed, pornography, homosexuality, or hatred; there is always hope in the power of Christ's blood to deliver us from all bondage. Yet it is a struggle, a fight of which all believers should have compas-

sion for one-another. And to those who struggle, I pray for and empathize with... because I'm just as human (and I also happen to have a house full of teenagers!... who struggle). If it can happen to Ray Boltz, it can happen to any believer.

However, I unashamedly will state that while it is good to have compassion for our fellow Christians who struggle against sin, it is equally good to stand up against the sin itself and those persons of Christ's church who seek to justify that sin in the name of 'diversity' and 'agape love'.

Yes, we are to have 'unity in diversity'... meaning loving and growing together in Christ tho our personalities, ethnicities and giftings are different. It does not, should not endorse sinful lifestyles expressly prohibited in the New Testament. Truly that is not love for God or for others, as all unrepentant sin separates us from God, others, destroys the body in this life, and the spirit in hell for all eternity. This is God's Word and His judgment, not mine: 1Cor6:9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were

justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

.....and "18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. And from Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."

The Christian faith is known to us through the inspired Word of God as recorded in the New Testament. All of our doctrine and practice is explained and given there. Most of it is declarative, easy and plain. It (not me) sets standards and absolutes for Christian fruit and behavior.

My Bible says there is no such thing as a practicing homosexual Christian (one who justifies his/her homosexuality; who lives and believes God approves it).

What says the Body of Christ?
For the honor of a Holy God and love for his Church,

Robin Somers
Norton

Your Political Connection

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- ★ **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
- ★ **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

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Thumbs Up

To... **Bill Manning** for the pumpkins. (from the Busy Jayhawkers 4-H Club).

To... **Will Burns**, on the super teacher honor accorded at Hays. (e-mail)

To... **The Norton County Hospital**, on your open house and how nice the improvements are. (e-mail)

To... **the Heritage Quilt Club**, for the blankets you made and gave to the hospital. (called in)

To... **Gloria Nelson**, on the much deserved statewide honor. (regular mail)

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