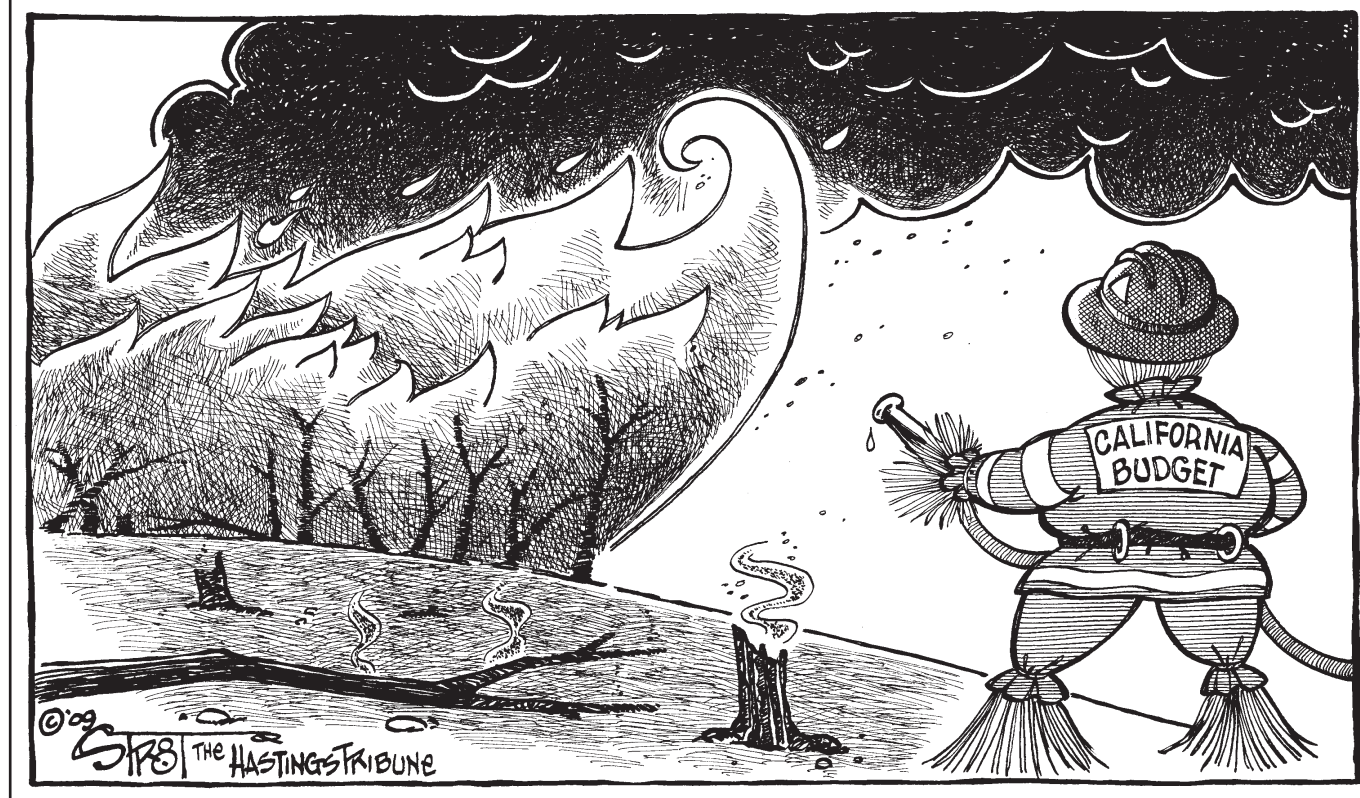


### Tuesday's Snippets

### Your Comments

- "Sarah Palin's resignation has really hurt her. Now, without title, she's just another person. She's going no where fast!"
- "That long letter about Michael Vick was a bunch of barking. Substance lacking. He's bad, man — get over it!"
- "Well, now we can't trust our president to talk to our school children. What else are the fruitcakes going to come up with? No wonder God has trouble blessing America!"
- "Looks like our Bluejays will be just fine on the football field. Now, if we can just keep our fans off."
- "KU won, Kansas State won. Powder-puff games. Neither were impressive. But at least the long awaited football season is underway. Go Nebraska!"
- "Is the H1N1 flu really that serious? It makes us want to go hide until the flu season is over."
- "Have you taken a look at the progress being made on the Moffet building? Maybe it will after all have a purpose again. One up for Diane."
- "Moffet building project promises to draw travelers to our downtown area. Question, how will they know that?"
- "THAT controversial building is being worked on now downtown. Why? It's still a pile of junk!"
- "All of that (re: letter from Pinestone owners) because of noise from the grain elevator across the street? The noise was there before they bought the apartment building."
- "Some people were born to complain!"
- "With all the money we are spending to have all that work done on the water tank - and to include the bluejay beak during the painting process - we will still receive the quarterly warnings of our water containing too much of the stuff that's no good for us. Why is that?"

**(Important note: There will be one more Snippets column, on Tuesday, Sept. 15. After that the column will become history as its creator will be stepping down later in the month in favor of retirement, thus allowing the new editor/publisher to focus the newspaper in that person's liking. Thanks to the many dedicated respondents for allowing this column the popularity it has enjoyed. - td)**



## Really, nothing like home sweet home

We have never been away from home for this many days since we've been married. It was almost two weeks and I think Jim and I were both a little homesick. But, we're home, now, and what a nice surprise was waiting for us. Son, James, had been busy in our absence and completed countless little jobs, plus some big ones, too.

The first one I noticed was the globe light in the front yard. He had finished wiring it to a switch on the porch and I can now turn it on and off with the flip of a switch. Neat. A light on the side porch is also functional. Inside, he did finish the dining room, right down to hanging the new shears I had purchased and painting the floor. All nice improvements.

Our oldest daughter, Halley, rode home with us to spend a few days. For two days, straight, we sat three across

### Out Back Carolyn Plotts



on the bench seat of our pick-up. It was a choreographed routine just to get our seat belts on. I rode in the middle, so I had to get in first. I would lean to the left while Halley, who rode shotgun, would snap my buckle which was buried between the seats. While I was still turned, she would get in, then I would roll back to center and Jim could get in and buckle. Getting out was played in reverse.

Because of the way we split our visits with the kids, we were in Dallas with our daughter, Kara, her husband, Adam,

and their daughter, Taylor on weekdays. One day I heard 10-year old Taylor ask her mother, "How come we don't get 'em for a weekend?"

Next time we'll work out "custody of the grandparents" so she gets us, too.

Even without all the improvements, the old place looked pretty good to us. My first morning home, I watered everything, whether it needed it or not. And, Jim was outside all day, cutting lumber for a new shed he's building. I had to lay down and take a nap about 10 a.m. but, he went strong all day.

Halley had a friend in a neighboring town she had not seen in years so she spent several hours with her and James had to work. Everything is back to normal. Like Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz said, "It's good to be home." Or did she say, "There's no place like home. There's no place like home."

Oh, well, they're both true.

## Have we learned a lesson?

Maybe I have gotten out of the loop, but what happened?

For about five to six months after President Obama was elected, there was a lot of uproar about the trillions of dollars he and the democrats were handing out to try to 'fix' the economy. People were screaming about the amount of taxes that would have to be paid by not only this generation, but for generations in the future. There were all kinds of protests, T. E. A. parties, threats of seceding from the United States, passing bills recognizing the sovereignty of states and etc.

In the last month or so, I have not heard much. Things seem to have cooled down quite a bit. Why is that? Are we actually going to accept this hideous burden and become slaves to a bloated government? Why bother with all of the protests and so forth if we were not going to go on and do something about it? Shakespeare said it a long time ago; "Tis a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

It seems we do a lot of talking and protesting but when it comes down to actually doing something — well it's another story.

I can only hope that when it comes to voting in a new Congress, that we will really 'upset' the apple cart. And after voting new people in, we keep after them constantly to do the right thing.

Or am I living in a fantasy world where everything works out all right in the end? I hope not. I hope we Americans have learned a lesson from this and will do better in the future.

Do you think we will?

(June Prout is a resident of Norton)

### At Home With June June Prout

## Can't say enough about Valley Hope staff

We spent some time talking about the Alkathon last week — the camaraderie that occurs between the staff and the alumni. One of the reasons this annual get-together is so actively participated in and enjoyed is my staff. You see, I have a unique problem as a program director...I work with some of the most dedicated people I have ever met. These people are in every area of the facility — housekeeping, dietary, nursing, maintenance, business office and clinical (counselors/chaplains).

Can you imagine what it is like to come to work every day with people who are thankful for their jobs and actually **enjoy** what they do? It's an amazing experience! I get to work with people who are creative, compassionate, loving and human. So, needless to say, it's never a dull moment.

I think one of the things I love the most about where the Universe has set me for this moment is that I am in an environment where I am allowed to make mistakes, apologize for them and not have them held against me for the rest of my life!

Often we find ourselves in situa-

### Where There's Hope Carla Moore

tions where we are afraid to take action because if things do not turn out well we will "pay the price". It's impossible to grow and think outside of yourself if you are constantly worried about losing respect of your peers if you make a mistake!

I make mistakes as a program director on a regular basis. My staff continues to be patient with my growth both professionally and personally. For this, I am thankful.

Each of my staff brings special talents and quirks with them. I have heard it said, "Fifty percent of our strength lies in our differences. The other fifty percent lies in our similarities." That would be a good description of the staff at Norton Valley Hope. We are all focused on helping the alcoholic/addicts in our care yet we all come to

that goal from different directions. This gives the people we work with so many different ways to look at situations but still be traveling in the same direction. As you know, there is no cookie-cutter response which will help every person. There is our challenge.

Each person at the Norton facility has an important part in the recovery of each addict who walks through our doors. I know from listening to the patients talk about their treatment experiences that wisdom comes from every area. Each time someone leaves Valley Hope and is sharing their memories of the time spent here — they mention cooks, housekeepers, nurses, etc. What an honor it is to call these people co-workers and in a deeper sense, family. Not only do they love our patients, they love each other and walk through the difficulties and celebrate the successes of the people they work with. I could ask for no better people to have in my life on a daily basis.

Thank you Norton Valley Hope staff!

(Enjoy your day. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at cmoore@valleyhope.com. Namaste - Carla)

OpinionLine: (785) 877-6908

## Become a booster of Bluejay sports

As a local Booster Club, we are asking your help in promoting our organization. Booster Club is an organization that is open to everyone. You do not have to be a parent of a NCHS student to belong to this group.

We support our students in many ways each year. We provide a \$250 scholarship to a senior each year. We prepare snack bags for our teams traveling to playoff competition. In the fall, we provide a watermelon feed to the teams after one of their practices.

At Travis Field, the painting of the football field, and the Bluejay Cups found on the west fence are donated by our organization.

In years past, we have bought a DVD player for the Bluejay bus, and we donated money to help purchase the canopy that is used by the track and cross country athletes. We also donate ads each winter season to the Goodland Tipoff Basketball Tournament, as well as the State Wrestling program.

We are wanting to have an even greater



membership and meeting attendance than in the years past. For each sport season, our dedicated Norton head coaches take time out of their busy schedules to come and speak at our meetings.

We hear about their latest competitions, injury reports, how practices have gone, and team goals that are being accomplished. The coaches willingly give this time to our meetings; however, we feel that it is unfair to have them come and speak to only a handful of people.

Please help to keep this vital organization up and going by supporting us at our

membership drive on Friday, Sept. 11 during the Oberlin football game. We will have several tables set up so you can sign up as a Booster Club Supporter. But most of all, we encourage anyone who loves NCHS activities to come to our meetings on Wednesday of each week.

We meet in the NCHS cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. We need to have more people attend the meetings to listen to our coaches, and to help with our activities!

Meeting reminders can be found in The Norton Telegram prior to the weekly meeting. We hope to see a great turnout at our next meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

Thank You ... NCHS Booster Club.

/s/ Hypatia Day, Dwight Sprigg, Michelle Sprigg, Cory Roy, Patty Gall, John Gall, Lamont Shirk, Pam Shirk, Dick Boyd, Jamie Dreher, Lynette Jones, Michael Cliff, Laurie Cliff, Brian McKenna, Jennifer McKenna, Louis Keiswetter, Jana Keiswetter, Jennifer Boller, Sue Rossi, George Rossi

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

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