

Latest Palin headache will soon go away

Sarah Palin and her non son-in-law are without question the odd couple. Palin, you know, opted out of her elected responsibility to serve the state of Alaska to the best of her ability as governor. She is on a political hunt for support for the 2012 presidential election, disguised as a book tour. Yes, she wrote a book. Doesn't everybody? Maybe she felt down deep that in the year and a half she served Alaska to the best of her ability, she had no more abilities left.

Mrs. Palin is on the wrong side of the Republican Party in her support of an upstate congressional race in New York, according to those who study political races. She's opposed to the conservative candidate in favor of a moderate that smacks of anything but Republicanism.

Too, Mrs. Palin is planning a political appearance in Iowa, but when news leaked out that she's asking \$100,000, well, the anti-Palín chatter escalated.

All the while, Mrs. Palin's non son-in-law, Levi Johnston, has been making his own headlines. Reports are that he posed nude for the upcoming pre-holiday issue of Playgirl Magazine, and appeared on one of the major television networks with non-detailed explosive secrets. He is called the "non son-in-law" because he fathered a child with Mrs. Palin's daughter and that union failed to end at the altar. He was the smiling young man taking his place alongside the family throughout Mrs. Palin's failed vice presidential bid in 2008.

It's good all of this less than positive stuff is coming out at this time. By the time the 2012 election rolls around these events will have wilted on the vine.

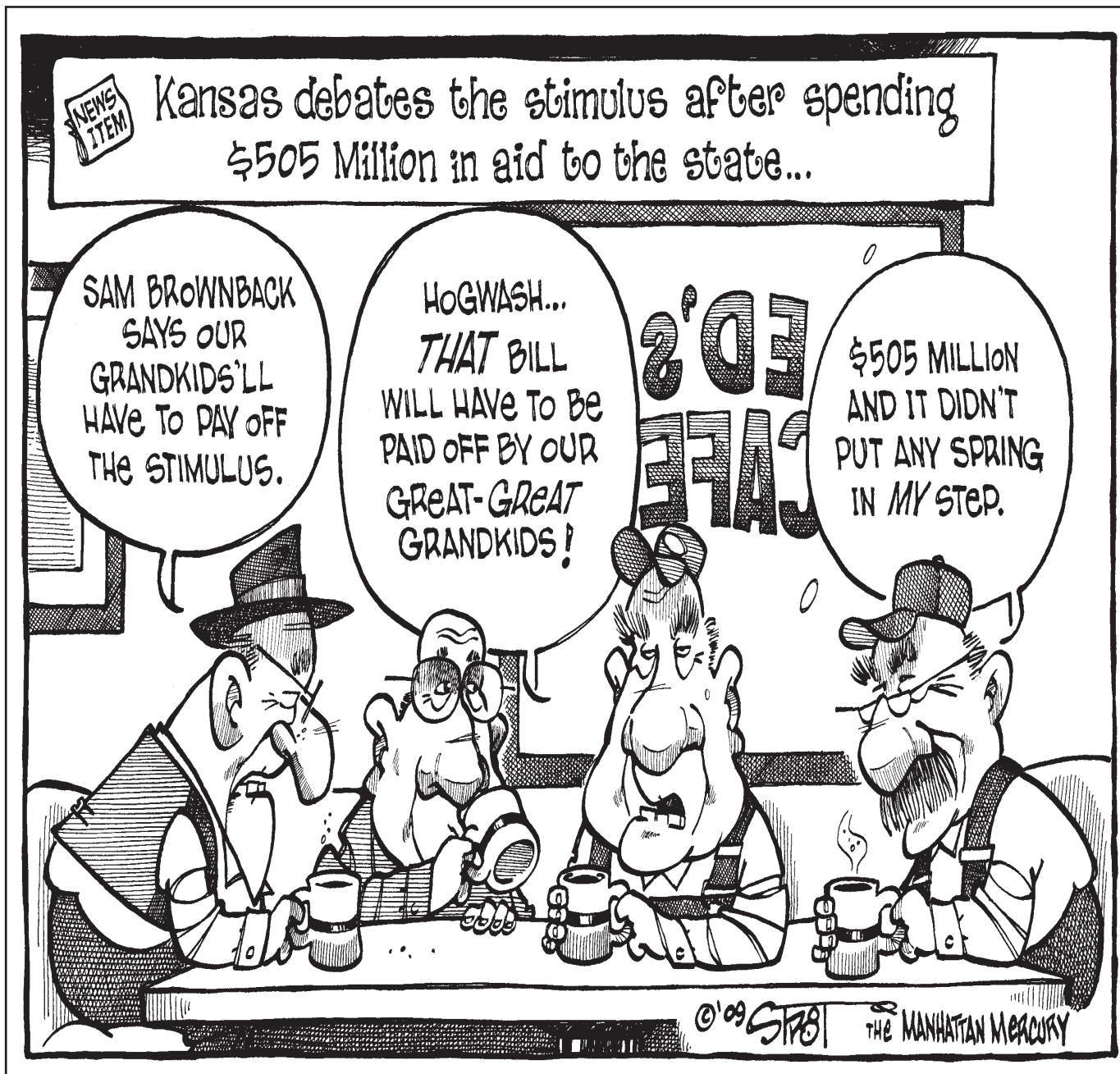
Or so, Mrs. Palin hopes.

Don't get us wrong, Sarah Palin still has a significant following. She was the darling of the GOP after her selection as running mate for Sen. John McCain. Despite attempts to make her look bad by some media, Mrs. Palin went her way, doing her thing and in the process continued to collect support. A deeper probe into her mindset would probably reveal that she, too, hadn't expected Sen. McCain to win but this was an opportunity to begin laying the ground work for her 2012 presidential bid.

There are some other names of women being tossed around as potential presidential timber, but there's one name that always bubbles up to the top: Sarah Palin! And with her name winning household status, she's already out front.

And the non son-in-law's closely held secrets about Mrs. Palin will fade, much like his Playgirl photo.

-Tom Dreiling
(tad1@st-tel.net)



Mission trips always exciting

I don't care how many Mexico mission trips I take part in, there is always something new and exciting.

We returned late Friday night road weary and tired. But, I think I speak for the entire team when I say we were extremely pleased with ourselves. We built the house in the allotted amount of time, and it was beautiful. Who knew five women and two men could build a house in three and a half days?

Normal construction time is two and a half days but, we experienced freezing rain and high winds on the third day and had to shut down work for the day. We were miserably cold and stucco does not "stick" in the rain. The final touches were added that fourth day.

The family we built for was unique in that they spoke quite a bit of English. The father, Juan Carlos, and his son-in-law, Jesus (pronounced Hay-sous) pitched right in and helped. Jesus is married to Juan Carlos' daughter, Brenda, who was stunningly beautiful. If she were in the states, she would be a movie star or a model. She and Jesus are the parents of 6-month old, Andres, who was adorable. By the way they looked at Andres, you know they thought they had invented babies. Everyone on our team, includ-

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



ing the men, took their turns holding Andres. He was a happy baby and hardly ever cried. Juan Carlos had two other sons, Diego, 18, and Irvin, 9. They were both in school so could not help all the time.

The house the family lived in measured about 10 by 20 and was made of cinder block. It was cold, drafty and had a roof that leaked in many places. We understand the plan is for Juan Carlos and the two boys to live in the new house while Brenda, Jesus and Andres will occupy the old house. I sure hope they can repair the roof and make it more livable. I hate to think of little Andres in that cold, wet house. I'm sure they will because Juan Carlos and Jesus both wanted to learn all they could about our building technique. Juan Carlos said, "You teach me, so I can learn how to do this, okay?"

There was enough extra tar paper and

rolled roofing left over, I hope they can fix the roof of the old house. What is humbling to me is that even with their dire living conditions the entire family was upbeat, positive and had a great sense of humor.

One day Juan Carlos came out of his house holding a small mirror. He said, "This is my I.D." I thought that was so funny. He also knew the words, in English, to every Golden Oldie song from the '50s and '60s. He and I would sing, "Help me Rhonda, help, help me Rhonda," and "My little run-around, my run, run, run, run, run-around."

It was hard to leave this little family and they have been in my thoughts every day: wondering if they are settled into the new house; wondering if the baby is sick; wondering if Irvin still has that cough we were all concerned about; and wondering if Juan Carlos will have enough work to provide for his family. They are a family we will definitely check on during our next trip.

Yes, there will be another trip. Many more, I hope. Perhaps the day will come when we cannot physically make the trip, but that is a long way in the future. Until then, have hammer will travel.

Dream harvest

Insight

John Schlageck

Awesome. Excellent. Wonderful.

With dry-land soybeans yielding nearly 80 bushels per acre and corn averaging from 150-210 bushels per acre, 2009 is a fall harvest destined to go down in the annals of farming history.

While each and every Kansas county may vary depending on planting dates, stands, moisture conditions, heat units this summer and harvesting conditions, for the most part, row crop farmers are smiling all the way to the elevator.

Brown County farmer Keith Olsen says this year's fall harvest is a "dream come true."

"It's been an outstanding growing season for corn and beans," Olsen says. "A nice cool summer, with plenty of moisture, has resulted in these wonderful yields."

In his home county, Olsen reports his soybeans are averaging nearly 70 bushels per acre and corn is shelling out approximately 190-plus bushels per acre.

During his 23 years as a row-crop producer, Olsen has never experienced a harvest like this on his northeastern Kansas farm.

"If I have another 10 years like this I can retire with a smile on my face," he says.

become an issue."

If that happens, elevators may erect bunkers or resort to storing some crops like milo on the ground. If this occurs, producers like Olsen may be forced to settle for cash only when they haul their crops to the elevators.

"We'll have to sell our crops when we go across the scales," Olsen says.

While he says that may be disappointing in a way, when you look at this year's yields and crop prices, "I really can't complain too loudly."

And while the forecast for early November calls for wet and cool temperatures, Olsen considers this typical fall weather.

"It's been a beautiful fall and I'm just pleased to be harvesting these great yields," he says. "Every year we hear and read about Missouri, Illinois and Iowa cutting these fantastic yields. It's nice for us to harvest abundant crops this fall."

Olsen says every day he thanks the "good Lord for giving us a crop like this," and he hopes everyone is having a safe and enjoyable harvest.

John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and



In case you have forgotten, the addresses for this column are:

- ebradley@nwkansan.com
- nortontelegram@nwkansan.com
- 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654
- 877-3361 or 877-6908
- (fax) 877-3732
- drop by the office, 215 S. Kansas Ave.

There is no charge to render a thumbs up; names of those providing the information are not used, only the method of transmission

• Most reasons for thumbs up include recognition to someone for an act of kindness, a group for something special they have undertaken, Grandma's or Grandpa's birthday, wedding anniversaries, happy birthdays in general. And you can probably think of some other reasons not listed here.

Dear editor:

Let us take a moment to write the Dane Hansen Foundation a thank you for their generous donation to the Andbe Home.

Sincerely,
Esther and Jack Ward



OpinionLine: (785) 877-6908

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



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

STAFF

- Dana Paxton.....general manager
- advertising director
- Dick Boyd.....Blue Jay sports
- Erica Bradley.....managing editor
- Christie Anderson.....society editor
- Sherry Hickman.....bookkeeping/circulation
- Vicki Henderson.....computer production