

### The jitters have hit Capitol Hill

A few more U.S. Senators said this week they aren't going to seek re-election. They join a list of both Senate and House members who have opted out of asking for another term.

Some of the departing helped lay the corner stone of the capitol building. Well, that may be exaggerating it a bit, but not by much.

Why are some of these veteran office holders dashing for the door? Don't let the "to spend more time with family" convince you. That's just more of the political hot air they ingested during their time serving we the people.

We think the reason for the outflow is directly connected to the childish behavior by both sides of the political aisle over health care reform.

They looked like a bunch of third graders — no offense to third graders — with their sarcastic attitude. The only thing missing in this battle of words — not coherent words, mind you — in both chambers were bows and arrows.

Health care reform might become a reality soon. Then again, it just might not. And the edge the Democrats hold currently might not hold up after the votes are counted in November of this year. If they don't get it done now, put this effort on the shelf with the other attempts at reforming the way we do things medically in this country.

The Republicans have been tagged the "Party of No." The Democrats, we feel, should be tagged as the "Party of Excess." The GOP is looking for a cheaper way of reforming health care, the Democrats aren't overly bothered with the price tag.

The last to turn down re-election bids are Democrats Chris Dodd of Connecticut and North Dakota's Byron Dorgan. Their decisions caught many Capitol Hillers by surprise.

Dorgan serves a state filled with Republicans and from the outside it looks like North Dakota just might settle on a Republican this time around.

Polls showed Dodd's small lead was getting smaller. He probably reasoned it's better to go out a winner than cap a long career with being forced out by the voters. Dorgan? Who knows.

If the voters are as disgusted with the Congress as polling shows, we look for a lot of surprises on election night. All 435 members of the House and one-third of the Senate are up for re-election.

Here in Kansas the race being watched closest is between Republican incumbents Jerry Moran and Todd Tiahrt for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Sam Brownback. Moran is from Hays and Tiahrt from Wichita. Early polling showed Moran with a big lead. However, at this time polls see it as a toss up. The two will face off in the August primary.

This is one race that won't be affected by the health care reform fight. With both being Republicans, both were on the losing side when the Senate passed its version of reform.

It will be interesting to see how many other House and Senate sitters decide they've had enough. And exit.

— Tom Dreiling



### Budget affecting elderly, disabled

It is no secret the Kansas state budget is in crisis. But many people do not understand how the continuous budget cuts are endangering the lives of people with disabilities and the elderly. We know too many people with physical disabilities have already died while waiting for services to keep them in their homes. Some people have entered nursing homes with no other choice, which costs Medicaid two to three times as much as services in their own homes. There are currently over 1,700 people with physical disabilities waiting for services. Due to cuts effective Jan. 1, this list is frozen, no one new will be getting services. There will also be cuts made to existing recipients of services, some of which we know and others yet to be determined. There are also over 1,800 people with developmental disabilities receiving no services. How many lives do we continue to jeopardize?

The Governor's budget allotment of a 10 percent reduction in the Medicaid reimbursement rate has a terrible impact on providers. Providers of Home and



Community Based Service programs are making cuts with more to come. As an example, SKIL offices will be going to a four day work week after the first of the year. This will definitely impact our customers. There will be more cuts and layoffs at the same time. Due to the 10% reduction, there are some nursing homes not accepting Medicaid consumers, which leave some people no option for survival at all. The numbers of people needing our assistance continues to rise, while our ability to assure they get what they need continues to decrease.

Because of the provider cuts, some people will find themselves unemployed. Providers will have to lay off staff. There

will also be less Personal Care Attendant positions available with less people receiving services. This has already been occurring since the waiting list was implemented in Dec. 2008. The number of people becoming unemployed due to these cuts will continue to rise. This is happening since Labor Secretary Jim Garner stated last August in the Wichita Eagle that the State of Kansas will have to borrow from the federal government in the first quarter of 2010 because the unemployment trust fund will be depleted.

It is time to say "Enough!" Enough people are suffering. Enough people's health and safety are at risk. It is time we tell our legislators that we need revenue enhancements in Kansas. There are children and adults with disabilities across the state depending on the right decisions being made in Topeka. These individuals need everyone to support revenue enhancements soon before it is too late for more people.

Lou Ann Kibbee, SKIL of Western Kansas



To....the Prairie Land workers who worked to restore our power in the cold. Thanks! (Called in)

To....Casey at Jamboree who was so patient the other day when helping someone. (Called in)

To render a thumbs up contact:  
• ebradley@nwkansas.com  
• nortontelegram@nwkansas.com  
• 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654  
• 877-3361 or 877-6908

### Your political connection

- ★ **Governor Mark Parkinson**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232
- ★ **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; fax (202) 225-5124
- ★ **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

## 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@nwkansas.com

#### STAFF

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

### 'I am not alone'

#### Where There's Hope

Carla Moore

my life, ever.

As I grew in the Program I learned two things. I needed to apply what I was learning to every area of my life AND I needed to look for similarities rather than differences between me and others. It's really hard — especially if someone drives you nuts and you just don't want to believe that you could be in any way like them. It's also very humbling to find out that you are like them in more ways than you could have ever imagined and taking the time to get to know them actually helps you along your journey...more on that in another column.

As I began to apply the principles of the Program to various areas of my life—relationships, money, food, etc.—I began to realize that I am a work-in-progress. The Program is a basic plan for living that reminds me to look at what I can change (myself) and solutions. After 14 years

in working the Steps, I can still fall into blaming others and wallowing in self-pity. At least today I don't have to stay there as long — and the people I hang out with won't tolerate my whining...thank goodness!

The second part—looking for similarities—has offered me a pleasant surprise. I have found that I am not alone in the Program or among the rest of humanity. As I have practiced the principle of looking for similarities, I have discovered that I am like EVERY person on this planet at some basic level. We all want to be happy. We all want to be loved. We all want to be understood. I am thankful 12-step recovery has taught me to look past the outside and focus on what's happening on the inside. I have discovered I am not alone. I have the ability to relate to each person I meet, if I take the time to find out more about them. In the process, I may get to help them but I can guarantee that I grow from the interaction. What a blessing!

What do you need to know? How can I help you on your journey? Email me at cmoore@valleyhope.com. Namaste - Carla

### Changing approach to war on terror?

The latest airline bombing attempt may well bring about necessary changes in how we approach the 'war on terror.' I have long believed we were going about this war in the wrong way. Al Qaeda is not a country but rather a group of radicals scattered in several countries and nomadic at that. When we focus this war on a country we give al Qaeda the opportunity to move from place to place thus re-establishing their stronghold in yet another area while we are still targeting a country.

We are now viewing Yemen as the culprit or at least the home of this latest terrorist attempt. We have relations with most countries in the Middle East albeit strained in many. This is a perfect opportunity to work with the individual countries in targeting al Qaeda and co-

#### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



ordinating a plan to better monitor the movements and activities of this radical group. If we truly focus on a 'war on terror' and use the necessary military equipment as well as bringing humanitarian aid to many of the countries we will not only build allies, but also have a better opportunity of curtailing the activities of these radicals. The more alliances we build within these countries the more help we will receive in targeting this enemy.

Nothing speaks more to our failed war on terror 'plan' than the fact we have not yet apprehended Bin Laden. As U.S. citizens we believe we have the best military force and intelligence capabilities in the world, but a seemingly physically baseless leader has been able to thwart our best attempts.

This is a 21st century war and demands the latest and most highly skilled individuals and equipment. Will we ever totally eradicate al Qaeda? Unfortunately, no, but we can certainly monitor their activities and protect our freedom with greater accuracy than in the past. There will always be groups who threaten the very ideals we have so long fought for and believed in. The real problem now is to focus on those groups and develop ways to truly fight a war on terror.