

Governor Fallin is good for Oklahoma

CLINTON DAILY NEWS EDITORIAL

In the 1970s there was an iconic commercial that centered on two brothers who were trying to get their other brother to taste a new cereal. Since the cereal is supposed to be good for them, neither wants to try it. “I’m not gonna try it—you try it! Let’s get Mikey!”

Mikey stares at the bowl and then begins to vigorously eat all the cereal before him as his brothers shout, “He likes it!”

That is how we feel about Mary Fallin’s current term as governor: We like it!

We like the positive impact her conservative, common-sense leadership has made in our state. Under her leadership she has saved taxpayers millions of dollars, improved services and made state government more efficient by consolidating government services.

We like her fight to stop the runaway train called ObamaCare that wants to roll through Oklahoma.

One of the biggest assets we have in this area is energy. Governor Fallin is working both in Oklahoma and across the nation showing how compressed natural gas cars and trucks are the wave of the future. As the CNG industry grows, so will the economy of western Oklahoma. And because it is a cleaner fuel, it should be appealing to environmentalists and also eliminate our dependency on foreign oil.

Under her leadership unemployment in Oklahoma has declined from 7.0% to 5.3% while personal income

has grown by 8.1%.

Governor Fallin reduced taxes, putting hundreds of millions of dollars back into our pockets. That in turn gives us more money to spend with businesses, which helps increase both salaries and the number of workers. It is a snowball that will create more money for state government by circulating money, instead of the old way of raising taxes.

We like that Governor Fallin is a strong defender of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. She not only protected gun rights for Oklahomans, she expanded them, by signing into law “Open Carry” legislation. We agree with her pro-life stand

throughout her entire career and her belief in the sanctity of life.

She also has shown her commitment to education by increasing funding for common education by \$90 million and total education by \$120 million for Fiscal Year 2014.

We like her ties and numerous visits to western Oklahoma. Having a husband from Thomas has tremendous value to us as she works to understand the differing issues that face the people across this great state.

Governor Fallin has represented the values of western Oklahoma well during her first term in office, and for that she has earned our support for another four years as our governor. Her leadership can be summed up with three words: We like it!

Democrats still possess a secret weapon

BY COKIE ROBERTS & STEVEN V. ROBERTS

Bill Clinton campaigned in Arkansas this week, focusing on college campuses and urging students to support candidates like Mark Pryor, one of the most endangered Democrats in the Senate. At each stop, staffers scurried through the crowds, gathering email addresses and cell-phone numbers that could be used to mobilize voters on Election Day.

“You don’t have the luxury of staying home,” the former president intoned at Arkansas State in Jonesboro, “so I’m pleading with you: Vote.”

In Wisconsin, where Democrat Mary Burke has a shot at deposing the Republican governor, Scott Walker, Michelle Obama struck a similar theme aimed at young women and blacks.

“When we stay home, they win,” she

“This is a hard year to be a Democrat.”

told a large crowd at a Milwaukee.

This is a hard year to be a Democrat. Every voting model gives Republicans at least a 3 in 5 chance of winning the six seats they need to control the Senate.

Second-term presidents almost always lose allies in Congress during off-year elections. Obama’s favorable rating hovers at a dismal 42 percent nationally, but it’s even worse in crucial battleground states like Arkansas (34 percent) and Louisiana (37 percent).

And Republicans are more motivated than Democrats. In a recent Gallup survey 32 percent of respondents say they’ll be voting to oppose the president.

Still, this election is not quite over. If the Democrats have any chance at all of retaining the Senate – and it’s a slim one – their hopes rest on galvanizing their own voters in Jonesboro and Milwaukee and countless other communities. One by one. Door by door.

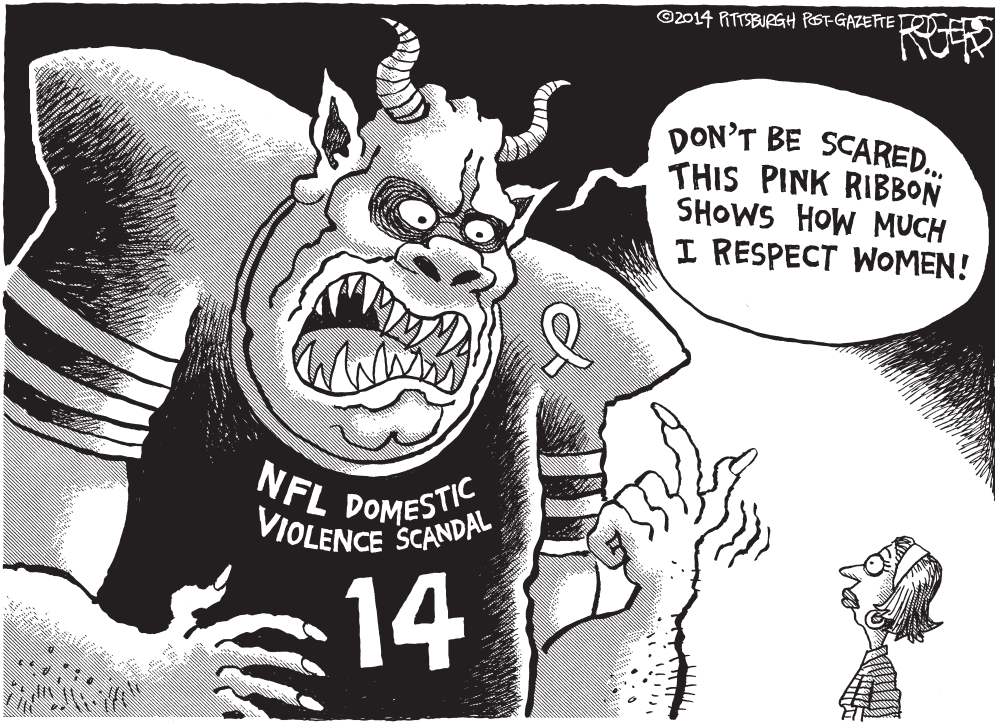
As union organizer Joan Zeiger told the *New York Times* at Michelle Obama’s rally: “The biggest fear of the Republican Party is high turnout.”

She’s right, and that fear has come true before. Two years ago, Mitt Romney was absolutely convinced he was going to win. On Election Day, he was drafting an acceptance speech while his aides were organizing transition teams and planning fireworks displays.

Romney lost for many reasons, but one of the biggest was his failure to anticipate the effectiveness of his rival’s turnout machine. The Democrats had invested heavily in local organizers and advanced technologies that maximized their ability to contact and motivate voters.

“We went into the evening confident we had a good path to victory,” one Romney adviser told CBS. “I don’t think there was one person who saw this coming.”

Now, 2014 is not 2012. For one thing, Republicans have learned from their failure and copied the Democrats’ strategy. As one conservative activist told the Washington Post, “People used to make fun of President Obama’s background, but community organizing works.”



Means of escape not guaranteed for anyone in this harried world

Escape. It’s a big little word, and maybe I lean on it a little too much sometimes when things get rough.

And it’s a complex word. How does one achieve escape? To my way of thinking, a person knows when he gets there.

Actually, more than that, if a person thinks he’s achieved escape he probably hasn’t.

Escape means not having to think about something, at least for a little while.

Usually, I know I really escaped after the fact. And sometimes, no matter how hard I planned and plotted, no matter how far I traveled, circumstances made true escape impossible.

Escape takes many different forms. Sometimes, I can escape just in the planning to escape.

I feel like just going home sometimes is a good escape. I shut out the world a little better than others do, I suppose.

And yet another form of escape involves hobbies such as fishing, camping or even getting involved in a production at the local community theater.

But there are many times when I’ll be enjoying an escape, and circumstances bring me back to reality a little too harshly.

Sometimes, it’s because I sought escape and ignored something important that it ended up biting me.

I’ll give readers an extreme example. One time, the family found itself on a really nice vacation in Missouri and Arkansas.

The previous day we had gone to a family reunion at a cabin in Missouri.

It had gone off well, even down to the point of each head of household introducing his or her family members and talking about what everyone was doing in a videotape.

Anyway, we finally went on part two of the vacation at a resort area in northern Arkansas. We had visited Eureka Springs and other tourist areas and after a long day of, we ended up back at our resort.

It had been a perfect escape. But when we walked back into the main area of the resort someone shouted my name.

A little surprised, I walked over and was informed that an uncle that I had just seen at the reunion had died.

Speculation was that the excitement of the occasion had been too much for him. Eventually, I ended up heading to his home in Kansas for the funeral. But we did get in another day or two of vacation. We had reservations for the following day.

I’ve had times when major medical problems and other issues have cropped up when I was in the middle of an escape. Perhaps I instinctively knew something was building and just wanted a little release, however fleeting it was going to be.

Regular readers of this column know the importance I place on vacations. Perhaps the escape part of the equation is a big part of why I

feel the way I do.

An acquaintance of mine has been involved in one of those big escapes, but a tragedy has struck his family right in the middle of it.

It struck me how often this happens. The more involved a person is and the more unable the person is to detach himself from an escape, the more likely it is that something about that nasty thing called reality will throw a wrench into the works of his life.

I’m getting ready for part two of my cataract surgery. And this makes the second time that a relatively minor dose of reality has struck just before I was ready to take on the cataclysm of any kind of invasive surgery.

I suppose that it was just the major signposts in my life that have made me attach more significance to the financial glitches. They happen in one form or another all the time, after all.

True escape is definitely a slippery thing to achieve. One should value it while he or she has it.

Academic team ready for district competition

Academic team competition is coming to Clinton on Monday, afternoon as CHS will host the district academic meet.

If you have never seen an academic meet this is your chance as Elk City, Weatherford, Woodward and your hometown Red Tornadoes will square off to determine the district champion. The Clinton team is coming off the taping of Oklahoma City television station KSBI’s Mindgames last Wednesday.

In preparing for competition, the team faced off with the local Rotary Club and came away with a victory.

At the Mindgames the Red Tornadoes faced Ponca City. The show will air in November, but because of disclosure agreements we cannot share the results. I can tell you that your team was awesome.

During competition the teams play a round of 20 questions where either team has a chance to answer. If a team answers wrong the other can secure the points with a correct answer.

After the first round the teams engage in a speed round of ten questions, in which the captain is the only one who can officially answer.

There are three categories in the speed round and the team in the lead gets their choice and the other team has to pick between the two remaining categories.

This concludes the first half and then teams may make substitutions for the second half. In the second half the process is repeated to determine the winner of the game.

The amazing thing in watching these games is the depth of knowledge the students must have to be successful.

The questions come from all types of academic areas, current events, entertainment, etc.. The math computations are read to the students and they have less than 30 seconds to answer.

Overall our students, under the direction of Marcia Wheeler, do a tremendous job of competing and representing our school.

The team has been a regular contender at the state meet and this team which has no seniors looks poised to make a return trip to state.

If you find yourself looking for something to do Monday afternoon come on by the high school and check out the team as they compete for a district title.

We want to wish you the best of luck Monday and go Reds.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send letters to the editor to the Clinton Daily News, 522 Avant Ave., Clinton, OK 73601 or email to cdneditor@swbell.net.

Letters to the editor must be signed, have a mailing address including city and state, and a phone number so they can be verified (only the name, city and state will be published).



NEWS FROM C.H.S.
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IT'S A THOUGHT
Steve Belcher