

From the Mailbag:

Writer: Get Up - Get Out - Vote!

To the Editor,
 Democracy is not a spectator activity. It is a participant activity. You can only participate if you vote.
 Don't complain about the problems in this country — war, immigration, terrorism, national debt, pork barrel spending, social issues — if you haven't voted!
 Term limits are controlled at the voting booth.
 Get Up - Get Out - Vote!

Gilbert C. Otter
Norton

Youthville will be on their minds

To the Editor,
 The families at the Norton First United Methodist Church are planning to "Trick or Treat for Youthville" on Sunday, Oct. 29 from 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m. Our goal is to raise \$350 for Youthville to use to help children in Kansas.
 For nearly 80 years, Youthville has been dedicated to giving children back their childhood. It has become one of the largest nonprofit agencies in the state of Kansas. Youthville's legacy has been built by consistently providing opportunities for abandoned, abused and neglected children. Youthville cares for nearly 1,600 children on any given day through one of its three core programs:

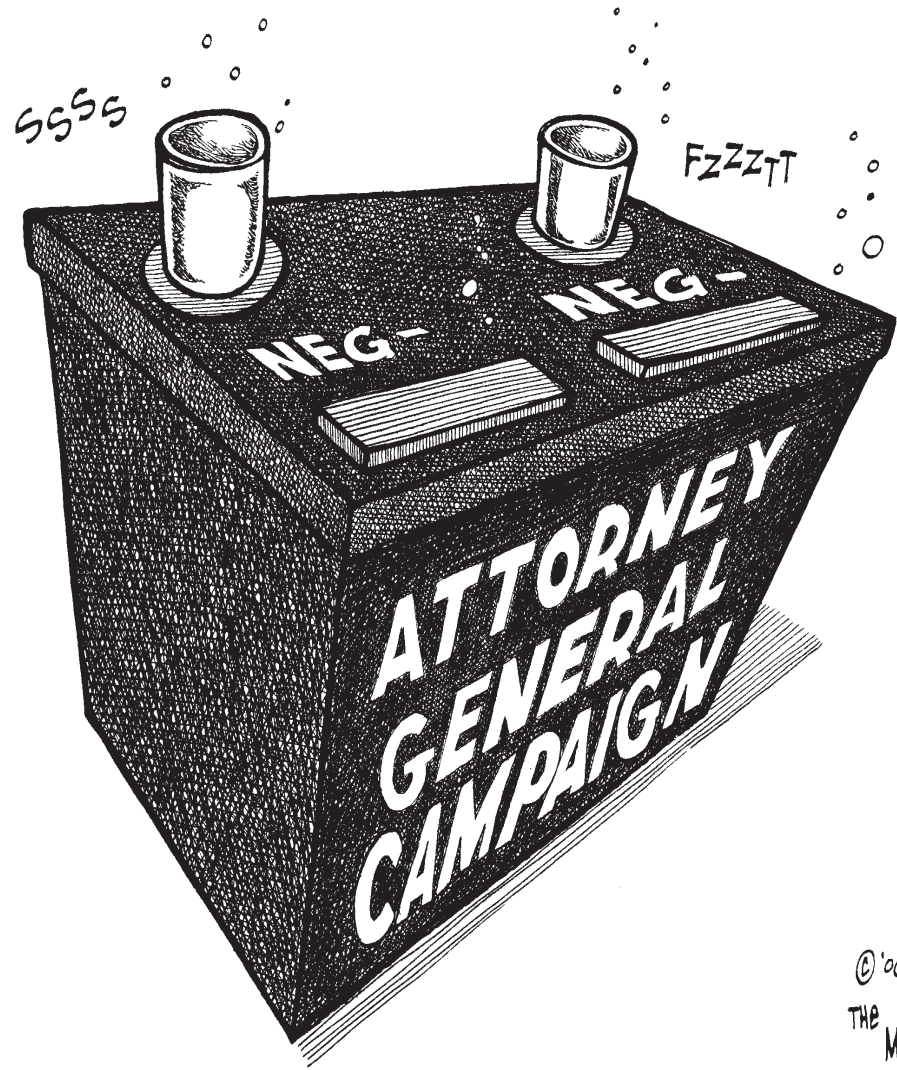
- 1) **Resource Family Care.** Youthville's resource family care program provides all services necessary to support resource (foster) families. The agency is always recruiting more resource families to open their hearts and homes to Kansas' most vulnerable children.
 - 2) **Residential Treatment Program.** Youthville has two residential campuses — one in Newton, the other in Dodge City. The campuses have more than 100 beds for youth ages 10 to 18.
 - 3) **State Foster Care/Reunification Contract.** Youthville is the state's lead contract agency for all foster care services in Sedgwick County. Under the Region 5 (Sedgwick County) Contract, Case Management Teams (CMTs) serve youth ages 0 to 18 referred by SRS through the juvenile district court for foster care/reunification services.
- We invite all families to join us in this opportunity for Norton children to help children in Kansas. Help us show Kansas our character and kindness. Please share this information with the community and remind them to be ready for the children with orange, yellow or red sacks who will be knocking on their door this coming Sunday evening.
- Sincerely,
 Kay Hawks
 Christian Education Coordinator
 First United Methodist Church
 Norton

Quinter man certainly a role model

To the Editor,
 I had the pleasure of meeting a real celebrity in Washington the other day, Waldo McBurney. Waldo hails from Quinter, although lately, you may have heard about him on the *Today Show*, or in any number of newspapers.
 Waldo is an extraordinary individual. He has had several occupations, including tax preparation, disk sharpening, seed cleaning, bookkeeping and beekeeping. He continues to maintain 100 bee colonies and sells the honey. This may not sound unusual, but when you consider Waldo's age, you will be impressed.
 Waldo is 104 and still works full time.
 I met him at the "Experience Works Prime Time Awards Event," where Waldo received the *America's Oldest Worker Award for 2006*. Winners must be over 100 years old and working full time at their profession.
 At the age of 65, Waldo decided to take up long distance running and after 10 years of practice began entering races. At the age of 80, he set a Kansas state record for the 10-mile run in his age bracket, which Waldo said was his "biggest athletic accomplishment." I asked him if he had any eligibility left, because if so, maybe he could be the running back for the Kansas State Wildcats.
 Waldo went on into his 90's and 100's to set records in the long jump, discus and shot put at the Senior Olympics. At the World Masters in Puerto Rico, he was entered in the 100-yard dash and when I asked him how well he did, Waldo said, "I did great because there was no other competition."
 After the presentation of the award, Waldo had the opportunity to make a few remarks and answer questions. He thanked his family, especially his wife of 44 years. He then told the crowd that his secret to a long life was that he had never tasted alcohol or tobacco and that he exercised.
 Waldo's best advice: "Worrying shortens life and makes life miserable. The easiest way to shorten life is to do nothing." An important message for all of us.
 In that regard, I am pleased to report the Congress passed critical legislation I sponsored to support the nation's older Americans and those who care for them. The Older Americans Act provides more than \$1.8 billion in funding for state and community programs on aging, for mental health services, for community service employment programs, and for prevention of elder abuse.
 In Kansas, programs that fall under Title III of the act including supportive services and centers, family caregiver support, nutrition programs like Meals on Wheels, and disease prevention efforts, will receive increases in funding.

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts

KANSAS ELECTION SEASON BATTERY



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Maybe we're just a little bit too easy

Good Evening Norton
 Tom Dreiling



In today's "Thumbs Up" column on this page, a salute was rendered to Jeff (Goof) Urban and his wife Sue, and a well-deserved salute, I must say! The reason being was Goof's ability to get Norton and his Hot Wheels museum mentioned in a story in *The Wall Street Journal*. I am in possession of the article, which for the most part was a Journal reporter's account of the weekend activities last August in Speed where Hot Wheels enthusiasts from all over the country gathered to compare, buy, trade, sell, discuss and marvel at what Hot Wheels' maker Mattel Inc. has done over the years with these miniature cars, and also express some dismay with some of their current models, aimed at the younger crowd. It was an overall account written by Journal reporter Christina Binkley.

That all said, that's about the extent of what I can say. *The Wall Street Journal* has a pretty stiff "publication/license" policy. I could not just simply reprint the story. It is sometimes hard for little newspapers like us to understand the "why" behind the policy. So be it.

But in the same light, there are large papers who use stuff from smaller papers without seeking prior approval. We don't complain. Sometimes it's a plus for us and our community to see larger publications taking note of our existence, as long as the intent is to inform and not to ridicule.

I'm just a small town editor trying to make due with what we've got. And if I wanted to reprint the Journal story by obtaining republication rights and a license to do so, the cost would have been more than what I would be willing to pay. In fact I wouldn't be willing to pay anything. I think the tally was somewhere around \$125. Sure, it cost them to send a reporter half way across the country to do a story on something taking place in Speed, Kansas on Aug. 26, 2005. But in the same

light, it costs us to send a reporter out on the road to cover things, too. And if another newspaper wants to use what we do, we don't require republication rights and a license to do so.

It was nice to be mentioned in *The Wall Street Journal*. And that story, incidentally — if we had run it — would have covered 50 inches of space, far more than we generally run for our own feature work. And to those who might be saying to themselves, "Heck, I would have just run it. They would never have known," there is a "clipping" service whereby publications (newspapers, magazines, etc. who subscribe), are informed as to who is using their stuff. You can't sneak one in. It's not the price so much as it is the principle.

Ever hear of a poor millionaire? I didn't know there was such a thing. But it came through loud and clear during a debate on C-SPAN by the three candidates in the race for the U.S. Senate in the state of Washington. The candidates are the incumbent Senator Maria Cantwell (Democrat), Mike McGavick (Republican) and Bruce Guthrie (Libertarian).

One of the questions asked was, "How can any of you three candidates, all millionaires, relate to the ordinary voter?" Guthrie, the Libertarian, got his 2 cents worth in first by declaring, "I want it known that I am the poorest of the millionaires on this stage!" And he was serious,

So there you are, folks, a poor millionaire.

Remember to turn your clocks **BACK** one hour before going to bed Saturday night as we move out of Daylight Saving Time. The time change actually occurs at 2 a.m. Sunday morning. Of course this means daylight will surrender to darker sooner, but we've been doing this for so long that it's no big deal.

Have you noticed that every time we have a television report from North Korea all we see is their marching military troops? I wonder if they ever sleep.

I heard someone say the other day that our representatives in Washington pack home an annual salary of \$164,000, and this year they were in session a total of only 94 days. That's around \$1,750 per day. Not bad, if you are them. Not good, if you are us wondering why nothing is getting done. That's my only political comment for today.

I think you'll enjoy this little story, which raises its own question.

This guy was packing for a business trip and his 3-year old daughter was having a wonderful time playing on the bed. At one point she said, "Daddy, look at this," and stuck out two of her fingers.

Trying to keep her entertained, he reached out and stuck her tiny fingers in his mouth and said, "Daddy's gonna eat your fingers!" pretending to eat them before he rushed out of the room again.

When he returned, his daughter was standing on the bed staring at her fingers with a devastated look on her face.

He said, "What's wrong, honey?" She replied, "What happened to my booger?"

Have a good weekend. Church awaits.

Thumbs Up to . . .

✓ **Jeff (Goof) Urban, and wife Sue**, for getting Norton and your Hot Wheels museum mentioned in *The Wall Street Journal*. (e-mail; also, please see first item in "Good Evening Norton" column on this page)

✓ **Andrew Walter**, on your electronic football tournament win, which also included tickets to the Citrus Bowl. (via telephone call from friends who think you are the greatest guy in the world and who also just happen to like bowl games)

✓ **Pastor Leon Neher**, enjoy retirement. (e-mail)

✓ **Nettie Britton**, on your 90th birthday. (e-mail)

✓ **Erma Hackney**, on having the distinction of being the state's oldest active restaurant cook. (e-mail)

✓ **Steve Haynes**, on your election as vice president of the National Newspaper Association. (from staff)

✓ **Doug Sebelius**, on earning the title of 2006 Champion Chili Cook.

✓ **Travis Vallin**, latest *Norton Telegram* weekly Pigskin Pick-Em Contest \$15 winner.

(To submit a name or names for this weekly salute, e-mail tomd@nwkansas.com, call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, write *The Telegram* at 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your help.)

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Something on your mind?

Share it with a letter to *The Telegram's* editor