

## Make your vote count on election day

The primary election is just around the corner. This year's primary has several races including two for Norton County commissioner, Norton County sheriff, state senator and state representative.

They are all for important positions. Actually, any elected official should put importance into the job. But, before they can do their job, they need to be elected and that is where the burden falls on the people.

People should study the candidates and know their goals and issues. This includes every candidate from the top legislative positions to the sheriff and commissioner candidates.

After these people are elected and take office, they will be there for a long time. State representatives have to stand for election every two years but county offices and state senators serve for four years before having to run again.

If they do not fulfill their promises, and bring integrity and honesty to the position, do a poor job or are dishonest, it could be a long and costly term of office.

Campaigning for the primary election comes at a busy time. Norton County residents are getting ready for the fair. Children are in 4-H or FFA and adults are being drafted to provide the enormous number of volunteers needed to run the Home-owned Carnival and run the many fair booths and exhibits.

It is easy to put off worrying about the election and voting. It's even easy to say you shouldn't vote because you were too busy to check out the candidates.

That is a cop out. The Norton Telegram and her sister papers have talked to the candidates and written stories about them. In today's paper on Page 5 are interviews with the men running for state senate. Next week there will be interviews with those candidates for state representative.

Earlier in the season we ran stories about everyone running for a county office, whether they had opposition or not.

In the meantime, stop and talk to the candidates. Ask them questions and tell them what you want and expect out of them if they are elected.

Our government is resting on your shoulders and when the curtain of the voting booth falls behind you, make sure you have marked an "X" in the right boxes.

We won't tell you how to vote. But, we will tell you that your vote counts.

— Cynthia Haynes, publisher

## ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- ★ **Governor Kathleen Sebelius**, Washington, D.C. 20510. 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-2332
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (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**, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715
- ★ **State Rep. John Faber**, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500



## Her house is a regular barn yard

I wrote about my dog. I wrote about the kittens. I wrote about the sheep. I love them all. But we have enough animals and I am ready to part with some of them.

A couple of weeks ago Kate left the house early then came back in.

"Mom, I found another kitten," she said. "It's bigger than ours are but it is very tame. I put it out back with the others."

Besides the orphans we raised the other mommas brought their litters up to the deck and with this one we have 10 kittens. They are fun and as one visitor pointed out we don't even need television. Watching them play outside the patio doors is more entertaining than most television shows. But, 10 kittens!

Kate was going to take one with her but her apartment has a no pets policy.

Nine was enough but now we have 10. If you are missing a calico kitten please call. Surely no one would dump a kitten on our doorstep.

So it is good the sheep are going to the fair, it is easy to get fond of them so I am trying not to think about what comes after the fair.

Tricia said Humphrey is eating like every meal is his last. Well, I don't want to be harsh but it is a fact we didn't raise these animals for pets.

One thing I won't miss about the sheep is the flies.

It is hard to figure out what to treat them with. We haven't been able to find any sprays for sheep. Some of them say you can use them on dogs and cats so you would think they would be okay on sheep,

### Back Home Nancy Hagman



but who knows.

Some say not to use on animals that are going to slaughter. Certainly useful information.

I'm not sure how much I should worry about fly spray. When I was young, we milked some cows. On hot summer afternoons when we were bored we'd walk the cows home and put them in the barn so they were ready to milk when dad came home.

How helpful this was is questionable. For one thing the cows would walk themselves home when they thought it was time to be milked. So unless we needed to milk early there was really no reason to get them.

Also, if we went ahead and gave them grain they weren't going to stand still later when they did get milked. And it was probably more comfortable for the cows out in the pasture than it was in the barn.

But like I said, we were bored and it is good for kids to feel useful.

After we got the cows in the barn we sprayed them for flies. Checking out fly sprays for sheep took me back to when I was young. I remember the smell of that

stuff. We sprayed it everywhere.

It was cool to watch it knock down those flies. We breathed it and we petted the cows. We never read the warning label. I'm not sure there was one.

Then the cows were milked. I don't remember dad disinfecting anything before he milked. We did always run boiling water through the separator after using it, but the milk we drank didn't go through the separator.

We put it in a gallon jar and took it to the house. The rest went to the Bogue Cheese Factory.

We drank the milk; we drank lots and lots of it.

It wasn't pasteurized or homogenized, it wasn't 2 percent or 1 percent, low fat or no fat. We skimmed the cream off the top and drank it. We used the cream on cereal. We were healthy.

I don't drink milk anymore. I don't even eat much ice cream, although I like it.

It doesn't like me.

I know somewhere, someone is doing or has done research on that fly spray we used to use and they have or will decide that if you came into contact with it something terrible will happen to you.

The good news is I'm not dead yet (although some days I think I may have mutated).

So I stand in the store and I worry about all the harm I could cause with a \$5 bottle of insect spray. I wish life were as simple as it was when I was 10.

If we could just recapture the innocence. And get rid of a few cats!

## Imagination is a child's best friend

My mother talks of sitting in the grass and turning the petals of the colorful hollyhocks growing in the yard into a skirt for a doll or playing teacher behind the barn with her sister as the "attentive" student.

I remember "building a bonfire" (unlit) for the wagons to circle in the front yard of our farm or my neighbor friend and me "digging" to China.

The span of years between my mother and myself is over 40, but the play is the same, imaginative and full of hope and self-confidence.

In the book "Anne of Green Gables", Anne wonders, when she will have time to just be a child. A question I often ponder when I listen and observe many children's activity filled days — when can they just be kids?

As grown-ups we often forget play is an

### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



important tool in helping children become adults.

They "try on" different personas during their play. They imagine situations and how they would handle them. Playing house is much more than sweeping the floor, it involves role-play and determining what is of value in the family system.

Being able to fill your days without the help of an activity director is a valuable skill.

As my mother always told us, "Learn how to be by yourself, because you will spend more time by yourself than with anyone else."

A friend was over recently, and her little girl was showing me the wonderful "new" dress she had found at a garage sale.

It hung to her ankles and it was velvet on a warm day, but she was a princess. In her mind the dress was magical. This little girl's imagination is being cultivated and her life will be enriched because of it.

It is so easy to plug in a movie or sit a child in front of television after they've been in daycare all day and parents want to fix dinner, fold clothes and maybe have a little time to themselves.

Pretend play is time well spent in cultivating the art of being an adult and the joy of just being a kid.

## WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous should be submitted to

the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.



Vote on Aug. 3  
and Nov. 2

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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

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**STAFF**

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