

## Public opinions expressed in letters

Dear Editor,

First, I want the City of Norton to know how greatly appreciative I am for:

1. Fixing some of the intersections that have needed fixed for several years.
2. Cutting the weeds and trimming the trees from some of the streets and vacant lots that were so badly needed and for getting rid of some of the junk on the lots that were covered by weeds.

Thanks for all the good that has been done by the city for the city.

Now, my opinion of a few things:

The question of the new swimming pool, I think it should be put on a ballot so everyone in the city and the county could vote on it. Not just the city council, because it will be used by everybody in the county, not just the city folks.

Now about the County Commissioners:

I see who is running for those positions and I wonder how many of the people that live in the city of Norton go out and drive the county roads, see all the county roads that need to be opened that have grown shut over the years and not maintained; if they see all the noxious weeds growing in people's pastures and fields. How many city folks check the bridges to see if they are in good repair? My opinion is those who run for county commissioners should live in the county and see these things everyday and in my opinion that is not the people who live inside the city limits of Norton.

Thank You,  
Vi Belden  
Norton, Kansas



Dear Editor;

Now here is a couple for you!

Have you heard about the young gals that came into our store and said;

We had to buy two thousand dollars worth of furniture out of town because you weren't open on Sundays! They said this as they sat on an exact matching set to the one they had purchased! It was in stock, in our store and could have been delivered two days earlier than the set they had bought out of town!

Or; have you heard about the gal that came in with a slushy and began sitting on the new furniture? When asked not to sit on the furniture with her drink, she promptly got up, told my wife to go you know where and walked out of our store!

Or; have you heard about the couple that decided to buy elsewhere because one of "Our supplier sells the product they wanted to a very large chain store and will not sell it to us little guys"!

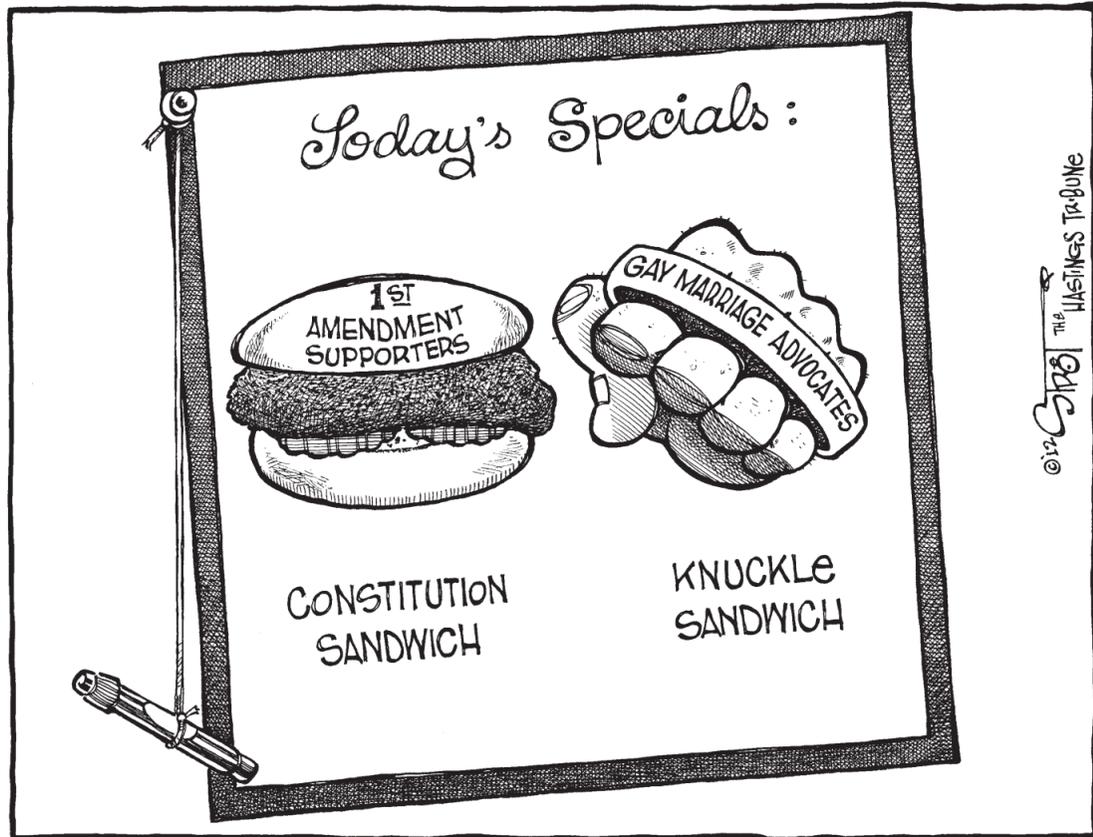
How do we hang in there? Because of the wonderful customers that have been, and always will patronize us! They return time after time in order to support their local furniture business! They believe we have selected the best quality merchandise along with competitive pricing!

Believe us when we say, that even on days when we seem "Out of sorts" because of circumstance, we deeply-deeply appreciate you, our customer!

Bradley Sander  
Norton Furniture, Norton



Thumbs up to Stanton Nelson for presenting a benefit concert for the Norton Theatre. His compositions along with his descriptions and humor regarding them were most unique. An entertaining experience. Emailed in.



## Important events and people in life

-ob-

Last week was my birthday and it was the BIG one. Without spelling it out, I can tell you that now, Uncle Sam will help pay for my healthcare coverage. He's getting off easy, though. I am disgustingly healthy.

I had a nice surprise on my day. I thought the library shelves and cabinets were my present, but, no. My husband had something else in the works. I had been gone most all day and when I parked the van out front I saw a sign on the front door of the house that said, "Happy Birthday Carolyn! Surprise Inside."

I thought he had really pushed hard and finished some of the cabinets. But when I opened the front door, the library shelves looked the same as when I had left. It wasn't until I stepped into the kitchen that I saw the ribbons and another "Happy Birthday" sign on the new storage drawer under my wall-mount oven.

It's perfect. Extra deep for those big pots and pans you don't use often, but want them handy when you need

### Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



cocky, though, or this could be the year I burn everything.

Jim gets all excited when I tell him I'm taking my apple pie to the fair because he knows he gets the rejects. I make three pies on entry morning and take the best looking one of the bunch. That means he gets what doesn't make the cut. He's already stocked up on vanilla ice cream in anticipation.

-ob-

My oldest daughter, Halley, arrived Saturday night. She will stay a few days then take Taylor home with her. Hopefully not before we get some projects done. Or not. It doesn't really matter. I get so caught up in just talking and hanging out that I forget about working on anything.

That's the way it's been with Taylor, too. We have spent a lot of time together, but not really done anything special. What has been special is our "talks." She is a very insightful young lady and asks some deep questions. I know she has her own thoughts, but always asks, "What do you think about that, Grandma?"

them.

I am one "lucky ducky" to have a husband who not only CAN build things like that, but one who WILL.

Of course, that's what he says about me and cooking.

"Not only CAN she cook; she WILL cook.

-ob-

Speaking of cooking - this will be the week for it. The county fair starts this week and I usually enter an apple pie.

A dear friend (and friendly competitor) and I usually take turns winning "Grand Champion" on our pies. This year should be a shoo-in for me 'cause Diane said she wasn't going to enter the contest. I better not get too

## ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- ★ **Governor Sam Brownback**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. roberts.senate.gov/public/ (202) 224-4774
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran**, Russell Senate Office Building Room C-4, Washington, D.C. 20002. moran.senate.gov/public/ (202) 224-6521
- ★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 300 SW 10th St., Room 262-E A., Topeka, Kan. 66612. ralph.ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us (785) 296-7399
- ★ **Congressman Tim Huelskamp**, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. huelskamp.house.gov (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124
- ★ **State Rep. Rick Billinger**, Docking Building, Room 754, Topeka, Kan. 66612 rick.billinger@house.ks.gov (785) 296-7659
- ★ **State Rep. Ward Cassidy**, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Topeka, Kan. 66612 ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov (785) 296-7696

## When you ask yourself, why should I serve

While farmers and ranchers continue to fill our plates with food, their plates are filled with an ever-increasing number of issues. Such issues include escalating production costs, tightening use of water, continuing drought in some western Kansas counties, an ongoing search for new markets for agricultural crops and increasing oversight and regulation to mention a few.

And while these are good times for some in production agriculture, they are very trying times for others. Living out on the land in the rural areas of our state, farmers sometimes experience feelings of isolation - that I'm only one voice, one person, one family and one small enterprise in an age of dwindling farming populations coupled with a continuing exodus to larger, regional urban centers.

That said, membership and leadership roles in farm and commodity organizations are more critical today than ever before. There is strength in like-minded people. There is strength in numbers. There is also credibility when farmers and ranchers tell their own story with a common thread and a common purpose.

Even though spokespersons for this vital industry continue to advocate on behalf of agriculture, farmers and ranchers still speak best. There is no substitute for farmers and ranchers telling the agricultural story.

You begin at sun up and work until sunset during spring planting season.

### Insight

John Schlageck



You put in 16-hour days during harvest. You bundle up and head into a fierce snowstorm to help a heifer calve. You must demonstrate the same courage and conviction when telling your story.

Make time. Take time. Those outside our profession aren't going to be the ones who defend us and tell our side of the story. If our story is to be told, we must make sure the job is done. It is up to you. It is up to me.

That leads me to the following question, have you ever asked yourself, "Why should I serve?"

Each day people ponder and anguish over this question. These same people wring their hands and spend sleepless nights trying to decide.

One of the strongest reasons for serving hinges on the personal satisfaction an individual derives from giving of him or herself. John Ruskin once said, "The highest reward for men's toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it."

Before you decide to serve on a board or committee, evaluate the organization's position. If you believe in the ultimate goal but disagree on how it's being implemented, it should be a challenge to serve and redirect the

methods used to achieve this goal.

Some people hesitate to serve because they are unsure how the board or organization operates. No one enjoys appearing foolish or uninformed, yet each group has its unique procedures. Everyone must serve as a novice while learning working procedures.

Never feel embarrassed because you do not know all the answers. Remember, you will not be alone when asking questions.

Perhaps you are uncomfortable about serving and the thought overwhelms you. In that case, don't bite off more than you can chew.

First participate on a small scale until you become comfortable and confident. Begin by serving on a committee. Next expand your sights and serve on a local organization. Continue stepping up your involvement to include county, district, state and national organizations.

Once you have committed your time and effort to serving, be dependable, prompt, prepared and contribute to that committee, organization or board.

"Leadership is that intangible quality in an individual which makes men do better than themselves; which makes men dream greater dreams and perform braver deeds." This quotation embodies the spirit of people working together for the betterment of their industries and communities. It comes from one of Sam Rayburn's, Bonham, TX., addresses to Congress. Rayburn served as speaker of the House under eight different American presidents.

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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