



It's a matter of hometown pride

Letter to the Editor,

In regard to Teresa Shearer Poage's letter to the Editor. Teresa I'm sorry I totally agree with Rose, maybe instead of telling her she can leave town you could leave it if you like a trashy town. You can move to the slums. Winter time doesn't have anything to do with cleaning up our yards. We have Spring/Fall clean up and we have a dump facility. People are just using their front yards as dump yards and believe me when I go through a town I don't look for a trashy town I usually look how clean a town is. I've never said, "Oh, look this town is really trashy, I want to live here." We don't want people to move out we want people to move in.

These yards are trashy 365 days out of the year. My mama always taught us kids no matter how poor you were or how rich you were there is no excuse for a trashy yard or a messy house. It all boils down to one thing, LAZINESS! So don't go after Rose Garrison.

We have city ordinances, can't own more than two dogs that's a laugh, you're to clear off your sidewalk when it snows, that's a laugh, you're supposed to keep your yards mowed and cleaned, another laugh, not supposed to have trashy cars parked on the street, Wow! We could be rolling over with the laughter. Sometimes I wonder what our city officials do.

Also, mama said if you rent you should take care of it as if it belonged to you and respect other people's property. I see when people rent all they do is tear it up and don't take care of the yards because it doesn't belong to them so what difference does it make to them? Remember a can of paint costs less than a carton of cigarettes. And cleaning supplies don't cost that much either. It's a matter of getting off the couch and using a little elbow grease. Don't use winter as an excuse not to clean up your yard. I've never seen anybody freeze to death yet. I get tired of walking or riding my bike and see all the front dump yards. Way to go Rose, I'm behind you all the way.

No disrespect intended but honestly, you really shouldn't tell Rose to mind her own business, she was just speaking the truth.

Sincerely,
Mary Jane Wahlmeier

Dear Editor,

If President Obama nominated The Lord Jesus as Defense Secretary or John O. Brennan as CIA Chief, McCain and Lindsey Graham would vote against the Lord.

H.J. Hank Austerman
Farmer C.E.O. and Retired farmer



Congrats to the Norton Wrestlers on a great job at the Regional Wrestling! Thanks to all the USD 211 staff who worked so hard to make it a successful event! Good Luck at State! Emailed in.

Remember there is no charge for rendering a Thumbs Up. Thumbs Up are meant to give recognition for a positive person or event in the community. Also remember all Letters to the Editor must be signed.

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The joys of getting older and wiser

I receive lots of funny e-mails. But not all of them make me laugh til I cry. Very early Monday morning, at least early for me, I was trying to come up with a germ of an idea for this column. Nothing. My mind was a blank. Might as well clean up the e-mail, I thought. The subject line said, "This is funny...."

Why not? I clicked on it and began to read. It was about an experience a "not quite" senior citizen had. What made it so funny was I have done every single thing he did. From having a young whippersnapper of a sales clerk assume I qualified for the senior citizen discount to getting into the wrong vehicle to getting a speeding ticket on the way home. All he missed was the time I drove off with my purse on top of the car.

Getting older isn't for sissies. Jim and I both catch ourselves doing really dumb things. The difference between us is Jim admits his goofs - I usually keep it to myself. Except last Sunday when my mental lapse was obvious. We were trying to gather our things after church services and I said to Jim, "Where's

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



my Bible? Have you seen my Bible?" I was looking right at him and had a rather accusatory tone to my voice, like somehow he was responsible for my belongings.

He looked at me and said, "Really?" It was at that moment I knew something was amiss. Looking down, there it was. I was holding my own Bible. No way out of that one. Besides, you really shouldn't try to lie while holding a Bible in your hand.

-ob-
A dear friend of ours is a prolific Christian song writer and talented musician. She also shares our prison ministry work. Sunday night she presented a concert of her original work and flattered us with an invitation to sing a song during her concert. She has always been so modest about

her talent that we had no idea how good she is. We were blown away by the quality of her work. I told her she had been hiding her talent under a bushel. Jim said he will expect to hear more from her out at prison.

-ob-
Valentine's Day is over. I made Jim his favorite pie - cherry/mulberry. He surprised me with a beautiful pink rose and a lovely card. He also lit up the giant heart he built on the side of our barn. It's right on Main Street, so I have to share that Valentine with the entire town. We unplugged it Sunday night, so it's dim until next year.

-ob-
I know Spring is close. How do I know? Judging from the number of seed catalogs jamming our mail box, it has to be. That and the number of birds crowding at the feeder outside my kitchen window. I have to refill it every day. There are other signs, too. A friend offered me some hosta plants and daylillies from her yard and I saw a couple of green iris shoots. Can't be long, now.

Legislature continues to fight for our gun rights

The correspondence I have been receiving this year is weighted heavily toward gun control and Medicaid. There are going to be many controversial and passionate matters that will be addressed in the 2013 legislature. This week, I will address gun control.

The core goal of legislation Kansas is looking at is to insure that personally responsible citizens have an avenue to protect themselves without infringing on the safety and freedom of others.

In 2006, Kansas passed its first concealed-carry bill, and since then tens of thousands of law-abiding Kansans have applied and been granted a permit. To obtain the permit, Kansans must complete a certified firearms safety training class and fill-out an application, which is reviewed by law enforcement. I myself have concealed carry.

The motivation behind this type of legislation was the notion that we should not treat law-abiding citizens like criminals. Those who take the time to go to the training and fill-out the necessary paperwork are not the

News from your legislator Ward Cassidy



citizens who cause trouble. In fact, to date, only 51 licenses have been revoked out of the more than 55,000 issued.

Many have said that guns should have no place in public buildings and we should keep these areas gun-free. It is a point of view that many share. Last year, I received many communications saying that our courthouses, schools, hospitals could not afford the security necessary if the conceal-carry signs were taken down. The problem is without adequate security to ensure no one has a gun in a public building, it becomes irresponsible to prevent law-abiding citizens from protecting themselves. Most people can agree that a sign with a gun and a line through it does not provide adequate security.

I was a high school principal when the

Columbine incident took place. Several of our area schools received threats, shortly thereafter, that we would be attacked. After careful consideration, I took measures to ensure that our school would be safe and that, if necessary, force would be met with force. We followed this plan until I retired several years later. My thought—I would do anything to protect my students and staff.

At this time, I can only see the Kansas Legislature fighting to preserve the rights given to us in the 2nd Amendment.

On a fun note - I had the opportunity to give the Oberlin 8th grade students and their sponsors a tour of the capitol on Martin Luther King Day. We were the only people in the capitol building and the students had time to ask questions and go places normal tours don't get to go. They returned the next day for a picture with the Governor.

Every time I have a group from NW Kansas I receive compliments on their behavior and I received several nice compliments about the Oberlin group.



Letters to the Editor and Thumbs Up:
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