

We need to look beyond county lines

My job as Affiliate Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Norton County (BBBS) has had some unexpected discoveries. About a year ago we wrote a grant asking to expand into the surrounding counties of Decatur, Graham and Phillips. We received the grant and since then we have been working with the counties to promote the one-on-one mentoring of BBBS.

Phase II
Mary Kay
Woodyard



I have always believed Norton to be one of a kind and believed we were blessed to live in a community of many caring people. That belief has not changed, but rather enlarged. It isn't the town that is unique it is the area. The people in each of these communities are dedicated to their youth and want to improve the quality of life for all.

Since returning to Norton I have often said we need to think of ourselves more as a city than a region. When you live in a larger community it encompasses many miles of real estate as well as varied focal points. A drive of 30 minutes is expected.

With our area towns losing population it is important to think of a re-structuring of our facilities in order to meet the needs of people in each area. If you combine the four counties' population it is nearly 20,000. True we are losing people, how-

ever if we worked together to create a "city" of 6-8 counties think what we might be able to accomplish. Duplicate services are not needed, but transportation between them would be. Each community could have an area of concentration as part of a larger plan.

Competition is good in some things, but when we are talking about meeting the needs of many individuals in communities of limited resources, we need to re-examine where we can go, not where we have been. We will never again be the town with every shop store filled.

Working with the other counties to expand mentoring has helped me to realize the possibilities within our reach. We could have more, do more and I believe grow more when we make plans to look beyond our county lines and work to become one "city."



LETTER

Tootsie Roll Drive a big assist

To the Editor,
Every year, the Knights of Columbus organizations across the state conduct their annual Tootsie Roll Drive for the benefit of people with disabilities. The people served by Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas have been many of the fortunate recipients from this fund raiser. For many years, the generosity of the Knights have allowed us to offer additional support to those we serve through a variety of ways.

One of those ways is Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas' *Consumer Medical Fund*. This fund was established due to the contributions made through the K of C Tootsie Roll Drive. Thanks to the Knights, Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas has been able to assist individuals with disabilities with the cost of medical items and care that are not covered by Medicaid, such as dental expenses and adaptive equipment.

So, as the area Knights of Columbus members gear up for this annual fund raiser, we would like to take this time and wish all of them the best of luck and encourage everyone to stop and support their efforts.

We truly appreciate their kindness and support.

Steve Keil
Director of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas
Hays

Free energy blowing all over the place

A few more days of wind like we've had and everyone will want a wind turbine farm. It's something Jim and I have always been interested in. He is convinced he knows how to build a turbine to produce enough energy to power our home.

I think it sounds like the smart thing to do. Wind is clean, quiet, sustainable and renewable. It ought to be good for something besides moving Kansas topsoil to Oklahoma or musing my hairdo.

Some cities and towns are considering using wind energy but there seems to be a lot of controversy. I'm sure I don't understand all the political ramifications, but it seems to make sense. I think I read somewhere that it only takes a continuous breeze of 5 miles per hour to turn the turbine and produce energy.

The only problem I see is, what happens on days like we've had lately when the wind whips through at 50 mph? Can those turbines "gear down" or would there be a power surge that would blow out every light bulb between here and Denver? Too much wind might be more of a problem to developers than not enough wind.

If they ever do decide to put up a windmill "farm" in this part of the country, I know the perfect location — the farm

Out Back
Carolyn Plotts



where I grew up. It is on one of the highest hills in the county and there is definitely nothing (like a pesky tree) to obstruct the flow of wind.

-ob-
Our daughter, Jennifer, called this morning to tell us that her 1-year-old's vocabulary has expanded to include "apple." Translation: "apple." Jennifer also said Ani was cutting more teeth and they have broken through. E-mailed pictures prove she is just as cute as we think she is.

Ever since I learned how to put pictures on my screen saver at work, I can see pictures of my husband, kids and grandkids all day.

Well, not all day, but the one or two times a day my computer at the office might be idle. (That was written for the benefit of my editor, who might actually read what I write.)

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Your political connection

- **Governor Kathleen Sebelius**, (202) 224-6521
300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232
- **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124
- **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514
- **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399
- **U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.
- **State Rep. John Faber**, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500

Some day our loyalties will be tested

The assassination of Julius Caesar threw the Roman Republic into such turmoil that the existence of the Republic was called into question. The conspirators led by Brutus and Cassius sought to save the Republic by killing Caesar and restoring power to a government elected by the people.

For many years, my sympathies were with those who sought to restore the Republic, which had raised the Romans to a great nation. But after careful study and perhaps the influence of my college professor, David Bell, I was able to see the Republic had failed. In its last 100 years, constant turmoil and a corrupt aristocracy combined with an illiterate and uncaring electorate made the Republic unworkable. Caesar Augustus finally restored order and stability by creating the Roman Empire.

Are we to follow the same pattern? Have our elections become corrupted

Citizen Duties
Bob Strevey



to the point that the office goes to the highest bidder?

Are our people so immersed in seeking the good life that they are unwilling to choose leaders committed to the good of the nation over those who simply promise more tax cuts?

I used to make a point of telling my students after we said the Pledge of Allegiance, that I pledged my support to the Republic for which it stands. A change of the form of government would forfeit my

pledge of support. But consider that sometimes change is necessary.

Did not George Washington swear allegiance to crown and country when he fought for England against the French? Yet he changed his loyalties when it became necessary.

Was not Robert E. Lee a loyal soldier who fought for the United States in the Mexican War? But he could not fight against his beloved Virginia.

I hope we are never faced with such choices, but some day in a time not too distant, our loyalties will be tested. The very existence of our Republic may be at stake.

We need to know where our true loyalties lie. Thomas Jefferson wrote that if a government fails to serve the people, it is their right to change it.

(Mr. Strevey can be contacted at bkstrevey@hotmail.com.)

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@nwkansan.com

STAFF

- Tom Dreiling editor and publisher
- Christie Anderson advertising
- Veronica Monier staff reporter
- Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
- Carolyn Plotts society editor
- Sherry Hickman bookkeeping/circulation
- Vicki Henderson computer production

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Thumbs Up . . .

To **Kenneth and Faith Hays**, on your upcoming 60th wedding anniversary. (e-mail)

To the **candidates for homecoming** king and queen at Norton Community High School. (called in)

To the **Northern Valley Huskies** for a great win over Cheylin. (e-mail)

To **Steve Haynes**, for your elevation to the presidency of the National Newspaper Association. (Telegram staff)

To **Joshua VanSike**, on your 4-H Scholarship. (e-mail)

To **everyone** who had a hand in the successful dispensing drill last Wednesday. (called in)

To the last remaining original employee of the Norton Correctional Facility, **Captain Rick Crowder** (aka Methuselah). (hand delivered)

To **Jeremy Wetter** and all the volunteers at the Norton Theatre for doing such

a good job. The "western" movie now playing was great! (hand delivered)

To the **Norton jayvee tennis team**, on winning the championship at Phillipsburg. (hand delivered)

(Send your salutes to tomd@nwkansan.com, telephone 877-3361 or 877-6908, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654, fax 877-3732 or drop by the office. Thanks for your input. -)