

## Educated voting is the best thing for change

Something to think about.

If someone were to come up to you on the street or in the store and ask you to recite the preamble to the Constitution of the United States could you do it? It consists of only one sentence 52 words long.

If someone were to ask you how many articles are in the bill of rights, would you know?

If someone asked you how many amendments there have been to our constitution in its 200 plus year history, would you know?

The Constitution of the United States of America is not a large many-volume monstrosity full of legalese and gobbledygook. It is actually quite simple and easily read. I happen to have a couple of copies that were printed in 1987 that would fit very easily into a purse or pocket. The one has the birth of the U.S. constitution, the constitution of the United States, the bill of rights, and the constitutional amendments since the bill of rights. All of this is on 63 pages. The other booklet, a little larger, has 38 pages.

Perhaps if we were all a little more familiar with this document, we might not be in the big trouble we're in now. I often wonder that if the founding fathers could come back to our time, what they would have to say about what our government has become.

Another couple of questions, if I may:

How many of us could say that we go vote every time there is an election, whether it's city, county, state or federal?

Even if we did go to vote, how many of us could say that we had done our homework and knew what was behind everyone and everything on the ballot, so we could vote intelligently?

Once we've voted, how many of us can say that we kept in communication with our senators and representatives to let them know how we wanted them to vote on legislation?

There is a lot of responsibility to being a citizen of a country such as ours. Unfortunately, many of us do not take that responsibility seriously. As a result, we put people in office that make major decisions for us without having to worry about what the constituency wants. We don't make them feel our weight behind their decisions.

Maybe it's too late, but I think I'll start carrying this little booklet with me and every time I have a few minutes of time, read and become familiar with its contents. That way, perhaps next time I vote, I'll have some idea of why it's so important.

June Prout, Norton

## Honoring the family name

Talk about memories, my mind was flooded with memories when my first great grandchild was born recently. It seems only a short time ago that my first son was born and then another son and daughter. Then, my grandchildren were born, well, not all at the same time of course. Each child was given a name, a special name, because it was "their" name.

This precious new person in our family was given a "special" name that has come down from one father to the next for generations.

Frederick William Claybrook VI was born Monday September 20, 2010 and weighed in at seven pounds, ten ounces and was 21 inches.

Frederick William Claybrook the first was a soldier in the Civil War as a VMI Cadet and a Mosby's Ranger. He became a lawyer and later came into

### Memories Sonya Montgomery



Christ and became a pastor. He founded five churches in the Tidewater, Virginia area. He rode 30 miles round trip by horseback every Sunday to preach services. Most of those churches still have an active congregation.

Frederick, the second was also a pastor, the third a businessman, the fourth a lawyer and fifth a business consultant. The father of Frederick William Claybrook VI states, "The great part is that all five Claybrooks have (or had) an active relationship with the Lord."

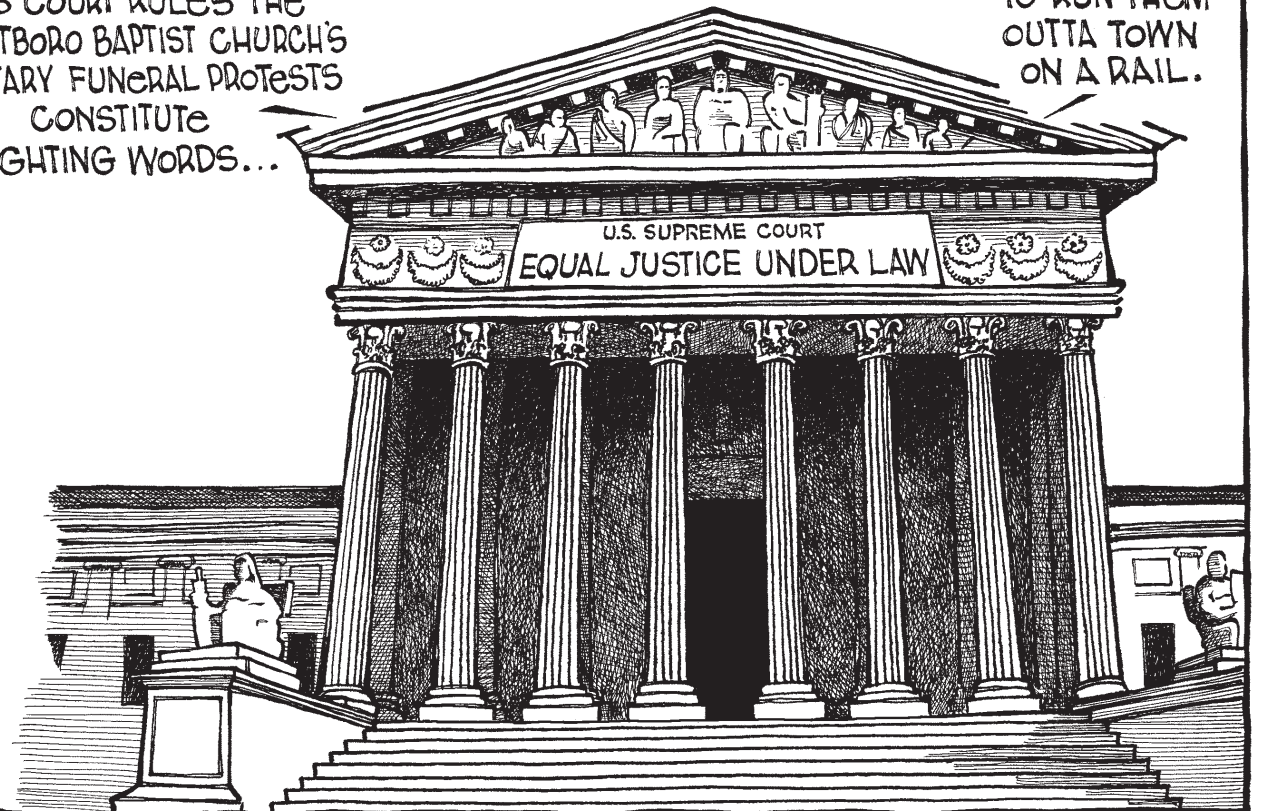
Parents are Frederick William (Billy) and Jessica Claybrook, Carmel, Indiana. Grandparents are Dr. Michael and Claudia Peil, Peoria, Illinois; Frederick William (Rick) and Laurelyn Claybrook, Silver Spring, Maryland. Great grandmothers are, Virginia Claybrook, Grand Rapids, Michigan and Sonya Montgomery, Almena, Kansas.

From the Dept. of Common Sense...

IN A UNANIMOUS DECISION, THIS COURT RULES THE WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH'S MILITARY FUNERAL PROTESTS CONSTITUTE FIGHTING WORDS...

AND THE PUBLIC HAS THE RIGHT TO RUN THEM OUTTA TOWN ON A RAIL.

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## So much to do and so little time

A good friend who knew we are going to Mexico called a few days ago and asked, "Are you all packed?"

Melba. Melba. Melba. Did you forget who you were talking to? We're leaving tomorrow and Jim nor I, either one, have packed a thing. It's midnight and I'm waiting for a load of laundry to finish drying. I'm also debating whether or not to mix up a batch of banana bread to take on the road. I'd hate to waste those two brown bananas sitting on the counter and the half quart of buttermilk in the fridge.

And, the only reason I'm writing this column now is, it suddenly dawned on me that I won't be anywhere near a computer over the weekend. I'll still be in Juarez, Mexico and won't even be able to make a phone call.

### Out Back Carolyn Plotts



Jim has been working like a maniac trying to get everything done before we leave. He finished siding the barn, unloaded several sheets of tin, mowed our yard and our rental property, finished a roof project and helped me pack all the clothes, blankets and medical supplies we are taking with us. He has been a blur of activity. It was way after dark one night when I heard the distinctive sound

of a metal fence post being driven into the ground. He had promised a fenced-in area to our newest renter and he wanted to keep his word.

There is still a lot of unrest in Mexico and we appreciate that everyone is concerned for our safety. We are aware of the risks but, promise we won't do anything foolish. We'll stay with our group; we won't go out at night; and we won't talk to strangers. Sorry. I lied.

You know we're going to talk to strangers. It's what we do. We can't help ourselves. But, you know what? We always meet the most interesting people.

-ob-

Oh, yeah. The banana bread turned out fine.

## Rabies and how to best control its spread

A few days ago, you had your hands in a cow's mouth aging her. She seemed to be more sedate than normal, especially since she was being worked during fall processing. The cow was found dead in the pasture a week later. Your horse appeared to be choking yesterday, so you reached your hands into his mouth to try to dislodge a sticker or anything else that may be caught, only to find nothing. Did you have an open sore on your hands? What if the horse had rabies? A week or so ago your neighbor's dog was much more aggressive than usual, biting your dog. Did you ever check to see if blood was drawn? A seemingly healthy cow is found dead in the pasture, a horse is exhibiting signs of "choke" (an object stuck in its throat), a small animal is more aggressive than usual. These are all rabies suspects until proven otherwise! And all of these scenarios threaten to spread the rabies virus.

Rabies is very important to you, your companion animals, and livestock. Rabies is a deadly virus that attacks the nervous system of mammals. It is not just a disease that occurs in wild animals, although this is where the disease most commonly resides. Skunks, raccoons, bats, coyotes, and foxes are the most common mammals that carry rabies. Cats have become the most common domestic animal infected with rabies due to owners not vaccinating cats that have access to the outdoors. Rabies also occurs in dogs and cattle in significant numbers and, while not as common, has been diagnosed in horses, goats, sheep, swine and ferrets.

The virus is secreted in saliva and is most commonly transmitted by a bite from an infected animal. Although not

### Vet tips Dr. Aaron White



as common, rabies can be transmitted when saliva from a rabid animal comes in contact with an open cut on the skin or the eyes, nose, or mouth of a person or animal. Once the virus enters the body, it travels along the nerves to the brain. Rabies may be present with a variety of symptoms. Symptoms may include: fearfulness, aggression, excessive drooling, difficulty swallowing, staggering, seizures, depression, self mutilation, increased sensitivity to light and nocturnal animals wandering around in the daytime. When outward signs of rabies appear, it is 100% fatal.

Rabies vaccination and animal control programs, along with better treatment for people who have been bitten, have been effective in not only preventing rabies in most pets, but in dramatically reducing the number of human cases of rabies in the United States. The relatively few recent human cases in the U.S. have resulted from exposures to bats. Be aware if you travel to foreign countries, that dogs are a significant source of rabies.

There are several ways to help control rabies. Talk to your veterinarian about vaccinating your dogs, cats, ferrets, and select horses and livestock. Your veterinarian will advise you on the required frequency of vaccination in your area. Do not allow your pets to roam free, and

supervise pets when outdoors. Spay and neuter your pets to decrease roaming tendencies. Do not leave garbage or pet food outside, as it may attract stray and wild animals. Always observe wild and stray animals from a distance. Teach children to never handle unfamiliar animals, even if they appear friendly. If you see a stray animal acting strangely, report it to the city or county animal control department immediately.

If your pet has bitten someone, have the person seek a physician's care immediately. Check with your veterinarian to determine the vaccination status of your pet. Report the bite to the local health department and animal control authorities. In most cases, the pet will need to be confined and observed closely for 10 days. After the observation period, make sure your pet is vaccinated for rabies if its vaccination is not current. If your pet has been bitten, consult your veterinarian immediately and report bite. If your pet has never been vaccinated and is exposed to a rabid animal, it may need to be euthanized or placed in strict isolation for 6 months. If your pet is current on rabies vaccination, it should be revaccinated and observed for a specified period of time.

If you are bitten, most importantly don't panic. Wash the wound thoroughly and vigorously with warm soapy water. Call your physician immediately. If possible, confine or capture the animal without coming into contact with it and without getting bitten again. Call the local animal control authorities to collect it. If the animal cannot be contained and must be killed to prevent its escape, do so without damaging the head. The brain is necessary to test for rabies. Report the bite to the

### Letters to the Editor:

e--mail [dpaxton@nwkansas.com](mailto:dpaxton@nwkansas.com),  
or to write 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654

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

### STAFF

Dana Paxton.....general manager  
advertising director/  
email: [dpaxton@nwkansas.com](mailto:dpaxton@nwkansas.com)  
Judy Sherard.....managing editor/reporter  
email: [jsherard@nwkansas.com](mailto:jsherard@nwkansas.com)  
Dick Boyd.....Blue Jays sports  
Harriett Gill.....society editor  
email: [hgill@nwkansas.com](mailto:hgill@nwkansas.com)  
Sherry Hickman.....bookkeeping/circulation  
Vicki Henderson.....computer production



## ELECTED OFFICIALS:

★ **Governor Mark Parkinson**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232

★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (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**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124

★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399

★ **State Rep. John Faber**, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. 785-296-7500