

Senator says member trying to do right thing

It is my honor to serve the Kansas 40th Senatorial District in Topeka. Like you, I treasure the rural way of life that we have in northwest Kansas, and I work hard to protect that. Each legislative session presents new challenges, and I accept each one working head-on to protect northwest Kansans' strong family values. I want to thank my family for their support. Knowing that everything is taken care of at home while I am in Topeka is vital to my ability to serve my constituents. Many thanks go out to my secretary, Mary Rowson. She owns the

friendly voice in Topeka that many of you have complemented. I would also like to thank Angela (Schertz) Stallbaumer, who served as my intern again this year. Angela is a hard worker and has helped me so much. I always enjoy the kids who volunteer to serve as my page for a day. I would like to commend them for taking time out of their busy schedules to spend a day working alongside me in Topeka. I also want to thank their parents and teachers for allowing them this opportunity. Those who served this year include: Jessica Bremer and Cameron, Elizabeth and Hunter Nedland,



Letter from Topeka By Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

Oberlin; Ana Ponce, Lance Leonard and Hudson Louderbaugh, McDonald; Stephanie Busse, Bird City; Samantha and Max Kisner, Casey Curry and Arianna Asturi, Atwood; Taylor Archibald, Goodland; Cindy Kenyon, Bogue; Lucas Carmichael, St. Francis; Kelsey Keith, Penokee; Krysten Ninemire and Stephanie Strathman, Hill City; Brittany Leathers, Quinter; and Kylie Morel, Norton.

In closing, I would like to thank each of you for your prayers and support during the session. Our Senate chaplain, Fred Holloman, reminded me near the end of the session that we cannot please everybody, so we need to just try to do the right thing. I wanted to share with all of you his prayer that day: "Heavenly Father, one of the first things we discovered after we got here, if we had not already learned it, is that regardless of what we do, some people, maybe a lot of people, are going to be upset. "Some will say we did too much, others say not enough. Some will

say we're soft on crime, others too tough. Some will say we spent too much, some will say 'Not so! They spent too little on some things, although they had the dough.' "Some will say we quit too soon, but from others we will hear how much it costs taxpayers the extra days we're here. Just help us, Lord, to buckle down and do the best we can. After all, they crucified the only Perfect Man. And I pray in His name, AMEN." Take care and stay safe. Any questions or concerns can reach me at Box 97, Grinnell, Kan. 67738 or e-mail rostmey@ink.org.

Reader protests omission of seventh-grade results

To the Editor:
I am a very upset parent! I don't have a subscription to this paper for the very reason I am writing this e-mail. My daughter is in seventh grade this year and very involved in sports and other activities. My first disappointment in *The Oberlin Herald* was when the seventh and eighth grade girls basketball league tournament results were completely left out of the paper and nothing ever entered. Let it go for a couple of weeks and then decided to call. The response I got was, "It's the coaches responsibility to get us the information."

Well, lo and behold, it happened again with the seventh- and eighth-grade girls Oberlin track meet results from May 3. Now, I am really upset and disappointed in our local paper because you have done it for the third time. This week (May 16 edition) you have an article in there labeled "Junior high girls finish third." In the article you printed the eighth-grade girls and boys, NOTHING about the seventh-grade girls and boys.

Also, my daughter is the only trackster who has placed first in her events a majority of the season and the only runner from Oberlin who set a league record at the league meet in Quinter on May 10. This whole thing may be minor to you, but these kids have family that can't go to their events and look forward to reading about them in our local paper. I feel you should contact the school and print the results of all three of these activities you

have left out, whether it was intentionally left out or not. Our junior-high girls and boys have the right to be acknowledged by the paper with whatever activity it is they are doing. If we have the room to write the Opinion Page over what three or four people have to say, then we have room in our paper to write about our youth and their activities. Personally, I don't care what the cats are doing, what trip someone took, or what cab driver is from what foreign country (in a way, I felt that article was very discriminative - at least they have a job and aren't living off welfare).

I will proudly sign my name to this e-mail and know that there are many other parents who feel the same as I do. I have contemplated buying a subscription to this paper and for these three reasons, I feel my decision has been made. Just an "fyi," my children and many other kids read the newspaper only to scour it and look for their names. When they don't see them, they begin to think the community doesn't have time for them or feel they don't warrant the praise they do deserve. This follows them, and

when the time comes to decide where they want to spend the rest of their life, the dagger has already been stuck in for residence in Oberlin. My final comment is minor, but when my daughter opens the paper and reads the junior high article and the seventh grade girls aren't in there, she will come knocking on your door and expect an answer. And let me tell you, she is NOT one to take a lame excuse!
Stephanie Blau Oberlin

Letters to the Editor

Man wants to save old Norcatour school

This letter was taken from the May 15 edition of the *Norcatour News*.
To the Editor:
With great reservation I read that we are thinking of disposing of the Norcatour School building. Over 30 years ago, the school board wanted to sell the building for salvage. Keith Adams, Ward Sauvage, Bill Nelson and I persuaded the board to deed it to Norcatour City for a dollar, with the understanding it be used as a community building. It was used as a community building for several years. It held alumni banquets, family gatherings, voting place, a walking track, town-team basketball and dinner plays and was

last used by Cornerstone. Then they changed the locks and limited access to the building. One of the reasons the city offices were moved to the school was to make them handicapped accessible. Most of the upkeep on the high school building is done by the Norcatour Alumni Association. There is no doubt the guy who designed flat roofs should be hanged, but that doesn't solve the problem of maintenance. Apart from the fact that the city office was moved because of plumbing and accessibility for older people, its roof leaks and it is hard to heat. Bill Nelson estimated over \$70,000 was needed to fix it thirty years ago. Jennings, Morland and Herndon

school boards sold their buildings, not the town council. There is no other area for large gatherings in town. I'm sure that if the community gets together, there is a better situation than razing 80

years of history.
Ron Temple
Norcatour
PS: We have a great start on an outstanding museum.

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