

To the Editor:
My name is Audrey Johnson, my daughter Brittany suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I'm sure you have seen her around town and in the newspaper with her service dog, Abbey.

Letter to the Editor

I'd like to point out to the many ignorant people in this town that Abbey is NOT a "seeing-eye" dog. She is a trained dog to help my daughter in a stressful situation. Without Abbey, Brittany could go into a "PTSD moment" and will need to be hospitalized. Abbey comforts her so she has fewer visits to the hospitals and so Brittany can enjoy the same things in life that the rest of us can, like going for a walk, going into restaurants, and to the stores to shop, for some examples.

We were in a "diner" here in town, and when we walked in someone who didn't work there asked my daughter, "If the dog should be in the here?" Brittany told her yes, she is a service dog. The woman asked "What does she do?" Brittany told her what kind of service dog Abbey is. (Though this woman shouldn't be asking questions like that, and Brittany shouldn't have

had to tell her.)

We then sat down at the table. Abbey sat beside Brittany on the floor. (She doesn't bark or growl, and has a dog diaper on just in case she might have an accident, which hasn't happened.)

We ate our lunch and proceeded to leave when a man said to the people at his table, "Is that a seeing-eye dog?" The owner of this "diner" about spit out her food from laughing. I turned around and said, "Ya know what, that wasn't even cool to say."

The woman who had asked Brittany about her dog told the man to be quiet and then said he said he was sorry. After we left, my nephew was in the bathroom and they were still making fun of it. I didn't think this "diner" got so many customers that it could afford to lose three of them, but it just did.

Let me educate you people on PTSD service dogs and ask you, if

it was a man or woman in a military outfit and he or she had a service dog with them, would you make fun of him or her? A lot of our military men and woman are getting dogs trained for them so they can do the same things my daughter would like to do in life.

Under a federal law, the Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, regulations (28 CFR Sec 36.104) define a service animal as any animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. (The disability might not be visible.) A service animal is not considered a pet. Most are dogs and can be any breed or size; they are not required to wear special equipment or tags. The law does not require proof or certification of the service dog's training (however my daughter has a doctor's script and a letter from the disability rights center in Topeka).

Service animals are trained to

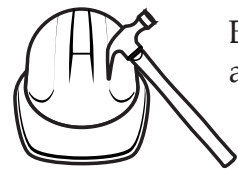
do specific tasks for the benefit of people with physical or mental impairments.

Federal (28 CFR Sec 36.302) and state regulations protect the rights of people with disabilities to be accompanied by their trained service animals in taxis, trains, stores, restaurants, doctor's offices, schools, parks, hotels and any other public place. Federal regulations, which have the force of law, say that the person cannot be asked for proof, or asked what the animal does for him or her. An individual cannot be removed from any public place unless the service animal is being a nuisance; then and only then the individual could be asked to remove the animal.

I understand in small towns it's unusual to see a person with a service animal, but I'm asking you to please keep your ignorant comments to yourself and get educated. Some day it might be you or someone you love who struggles with this disorder, or you might just meet that service man or woman who doesn't take your rude comments too nicely.

Audrey Johnson, Oberlin

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Tax bill would take away local power

Recently, I voted against a House bill that would have given \$45 million a year for two years to the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction fund.

I loved the property tax cut, but was opposed to the part of the bill that requires local units of government to publish, in their newspapers, that they plan to keep mill levies steady and only increase property tax spending as valuations rise.

There was also an amendment that the local units would have to budget to reduce property-tax revenues by the amount of state payments. The bill passed the House, and my opposition to it was because of the attempt to take over control



Letter from Topeka

By State Rep. Ward Cassidy
ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov

of local spending.

We have good elected officials who don't need any more state requirements to follow. As you recall, a bill has to be passed by the Senate and then signed by the governor. I have been told the bill will not get

out of the Senate.

More good economic news for Kansas - 22,000 private-sector jobs were created last year. Eight of the 11 major industries in Kansas reported year-to-year job gains. Due to a decline of the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to below 6.5 percent, the state extended benefits program will expire in Kansas on April 7.

Politics! I had the opportunity to visit with the Shawnee County district attorney's office last week to discuss the Kansas Open Meetings Act. In early January, I went to the governor's home twice for supper. I was quizzed by the district attorney's office for a half-hour as to whether strategy was discussed at these dinners. I would ask the readers of this column, "Where were you on Jan. 10 and what did you

discuss?" I did, however, remember no discussion of strategies.

Politics! I learned a procedure that can be used on the House floor and committees that I did not know about until recently. If you vote for a bill that passes, the next day you can ask for a motion to reconsider.

How is that used? When you would like a bill to fail but it looks certain to pass, you vote for it, and then work hard all night to get representatives to change their minds. You then make the motion to reconsider at the next meeting.

I tried to use that strategy this past week and could not get the votes to change. Therefore, the record shows I voted for a bill I did not want. Confused? Lots to learn in politics.

School finance is slowly moving along, with the Senate passing out an education plan that would raise the base state aid per pupil \$74 for the next two years. The House is working to have school districts spend down their unencumbered cash balances to show that the Legislature is funding education.

There will be a conference committee between the House and Senate, and eventually we'll have a final plan to vote on. I like the Senate plan at this time.

Write

The Oberlin Herald encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan., 67749, or by e-mail to oberlinherald@nwkansas.com.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and

expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous go to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

Photo Policy

The Oberlin Herald wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or news happening that we should attend, please call 475-2206.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can arrange to be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event, but we will try.

Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

Laser proofs of photos which have run in The Herald are available, first come, first served.



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1977 JD 4630 Tractor, Quad range trans., triple hyd., 1000 PTO, 3 pnt., 18-4-38 duals, 11,688 hrs., SN 4630-HO25918R; 1982 TW 20 Ford Tractor, 120 hp., engine overhaul 1500 hrs. ago, 3 pnt., triple hyd., cab, air, 540/1000 PTO, 18.4-38 tires, SN C692943; 1944 Farm All A, new radiator, wide front end, SN 99616; 1946 JD H, SN 59083; Super M Farm All Tractor, 540 PTO, single hyd., 14-9-39 tires, narrow front, SN F-35327-J; 235 Massy Tractor, diesel, 45 hp., 3 cyl. Perkins engine, 3 pnt., 540 PTO, single hyd., 13.6-28 tires, 2086 hrs., SN 9A-215556; 670 MM Tractor, propane w/ EZ on Loader, 3 pnt., dual hyd., 540 PTO, 15.5-38 tires, SN 29503484; 1971 Ford 600 Feed Truck, w/ 4 spd/2 spd trans., Eaton 440 Indicator Scales, Harsh Mobil Mixer 302F, 360 gas motor, 8.25 tires, 23,981 mi.; 1987 IHC S-1900 Truck, tandem axle, diesel, 5 spd/2spd trans., open frame, 11R22.5 tires, 126,025 mi.; 1975 Chevy Custom Deluxe 30 w/ flat bed, 4 spd trans., V8 motor, 1 ton, 84,681 mi.; 1970 IHC Loadstar w/ 16, steel box & double ram hoist, 5 spd/2 spd trans., V8 gas motor, 9,000-20 tires, 55,684 mi.; A & L Model 47 Grain Cart w/ hyd. shutoff, rollover tarp, SN S91900; John Deere Model 400 Grain Cart w/ hyd. fold auger & hyd. shut off, SN 011039; 48' Flex King Rod Weeder, Model R48, SN 2020; 40' Flex King Rod Weeder w/ hyd. fold, Degelman Harrows; 25' Flex King Rod Weeder w/ hyd. fold; 30' Orthman Tool Bar, 7"x7" hyd. fold, w/ lift assist wheels; 4-10' JD 9300 Hoe Drills, 12" spacing, hyd. transports, folding hitch & marker; 2-10' JD 9300 Drills, 12" spacing w/ cylinders, steel press wheels; 40' Crustbuster Hoe Drill, TS-41x12", marker, Model 3200, SN 11816; 30, Crustbuster w/ Harrows; 16' Krause Offset Disc; 35' John Deere Tandem Disc, Model 355, SN 011045A; 9 shank York Ripper; (2) 20' Tool Bars; 2001 16'x7' Donahue Gooseneck Stock Trailer w/ new wood floor; 7'x20' Donahue Gooseneck Stock Trailer, wood floor; 1982 24'x7' Neckover Gooseneck Stock Trailer; Smaller Flatbed Trailer; Anthony Gooseneck Dump Trailer, elec. over hyd. hoist, 6x10 box, tandem axle; Mayrath 61, Auger, 8", 540 PTO Bottom Drive, newer flighting; Westfield 31' Auger, 8", 540 PTO; Hutchinson 60' Auger, 10" w/ swing hopper, 540 PTO; Hutchinson 50, Auger, 8" w/ elec. motor; 5'x12' Kelly Ryan Feed Wagon; 4000# Portable Bulk Bin; Feed King 4000# Creep Feeder, single axle; Hesston 30 Stakmoover; 4 feed bunk tires; 2 water poly tanks; 5000 lb. Capacity Heavy-Duty Steel Forks; 3 pnt. Lift Arm; Miller Port Welder-Generator, 225 amp AC, 200 amp DC, AC Volts 12/240, Amps 42/21; WinPower Generator, Tractor Driven 540 PTO, Model 1220, w/ 2 wheel trailer, SN F-768-59; PTO Generator, 60 watt Surge, 30 watt continuous, Woods Finishing Mower, 3 pnt, Model 7200, 6', 540 PTO; Rhino Finishing Mower, 3 pnt, Model FM 72, 6', 540 PTO; 6' JD mower, 3 pnt.; 7' JD Mower, pull type; 5' Bush Hog Mower, 3 pnt.; 8' Drag; 6' Back Blade, 3 pnt.; 7' Back Blade, 3 pnt.; 10' JD Dozer Blade; (4) Tractor Weights for MM; Front Weights for 4020 JD Tractor; Fenders for 4010 JD Tractor; 2005 Yamaha 4 Wheeler, 4WD, auto; Yamaha Bear Tracker, 2WD, 250cc, new tune job; 460 Ford Irrigation Motor, complete on Stand, fresh heads, new bearings: main & rod; 4 cyl. Irrigation Motor, gear head; 1.5 hp Compressor needs motor; 125 gal. Propane tank w/ regulator; 300 gal. Fuel Tank w/ 12v pump, pickup; 1000 gal. Fuel Tank; 500 gal. Water tank; 110v Gas Boy Pump w/ meter, like new; 1989 Boat Trailer, tandem axle; 9,6"x15, Flat bed trailer; Alkota Industrial Strength Pressure Washer, heated, Model 4182, SN 165719; Shop Tool Box on Rollers; Smaller Chest type tool box; Power Tools; Scrap Iron; Lots of Tools & Misc. Shop Items

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