

BULLY PULPIT

Being kind

So, I took my “new” camper on her maiden voyage – shock, shock, - to Roaring River. I had the pleasure of my grand-daughter’s company that weekend so I thought what better way to spend a weekend than fishing and camping.

So, we hit the grocery store, bought the requisite marshmallows and black cherries and boogied southeast three hours Friday midday.

Well, since I’d dubbed the venture the maiden voyage, it was to find out what quirks lurked in the 20’ shelter-on-wheels. I wanted a shorter RV so I could pull it, back it up and get it ready by myself. I realized my mid-five-foot height was just right for the bed, couch, etc. I thought about my tall husband and he’d have never been able to stretch his legs out...

It was a trip where God’s hand was evident; I blew a tire seven miles from Monett, Mo. or about 30 miles from the river. 54 Hwy. was packed as it was the beginning of Father’s Day weekend and traffic was tight and fast.

I felt, and heard, the dreaded blubb, blubb that a flat makes, looked back and saw tire flying all over and the rim over the tire disappear. I pulled over in a somewhat safe spot and began assessing the situation. Though I’d pulled over a fair distance off the concrete roadway, it still felt like I was sitting in the driving lane.

The last words out of my dad’s mouth were to grab a drill and tools. I felt like I had prepared for a flat; I had a bottle jack and what I thought were proper tools to change a tire.

After ‘jacking’ with the jack that I had no idea where the tool to jack it up with was and finding a screw driver to help, I decided the tire won and called a local tire shop seven miles up the road – thanking God I didn’t get the flat on Interstate 49.

They came, the kid jumps out of his truck and we devise a game plan; he sets up his jack and begins the job to get a spare on – all so I could go to Friendly Tire in Monett to purchase two new RV tires.

What I saw when the kid was changing my tire was a bunch of drivers that gave no room to someone trying to change a tire. They were whizzing by at 65 to 70 miles per hour not moving over to give a human leeway on the shoulder.

He got the tire on and I proceeded to go get new rubber on the camper; needless to say, I will be getting a new rim on my wingless jalopy.

After all the messing with tires, I was more than ready to get to the campground. We made it, a new campground three miles outside the park as I’d have had to of made reservations last year for a spot in the park. We unhitched, set up the camper and all was a go. We hit the river and fished for a bit before heading home for roasted hotdogs and marshmallows.

What dawned on me the next day was bullies start at an early age.

It was hot and humid and we hit the swimming hole that had really nice, clear water entering it from runoff from recent rains. We were enjoying the water when a family with two 14-year-old boys came up; one a skinny little guy, the other a hefty kid with a good 75-plus extra pounds on him.

The water was chilly; the heavier kid jumped in with little more than a short breath caused by the cold water. The other kid looked like he was being water-boarded and tortured to get in.

The skinny kid had enough after a bit and got out to warm up; what proceeded was cajoling and harassment from the heavier kid to make the skinny boy get back in. After 20 minutes of listening to it, I’d had enough. The skinny kid was cold and obviously didn’t have the insulation the heavier kid had – but the heavy kid didn’t let up.

The parents didn’t say anything to him; just let him continue. At that point, my granddaughter had enough swimming, so we headed out to grab our poles again.

But on thinking about it, that’s where bullying begins. The boy wasn’t corrected and he was actually getting positive reinforcement when the skinny kid would relent and force himself back into the water.

It wasn’t my dog show so off we went to try to torture a few trout with hooks in the lip.

The camper worked well; the first shower I had that night made everything worth it. My own shower and bathroom at a campground...ahhh.

Anyway, my thought on the weekend was move over for stopped vehicles and be kind to your fellow man.

Speaking of kindness, please read Barbara Proffitt’s story on Kindness and locals winning the Telly Award on Page A1.

Jackie Taylor
Linn County News
Jackielcn1@gmail.com

LETTERS POLICY

Linn County News encourages letters to the editor. They may be mailed, emailed, faxed or hand-delivered. To be published, the letter must:

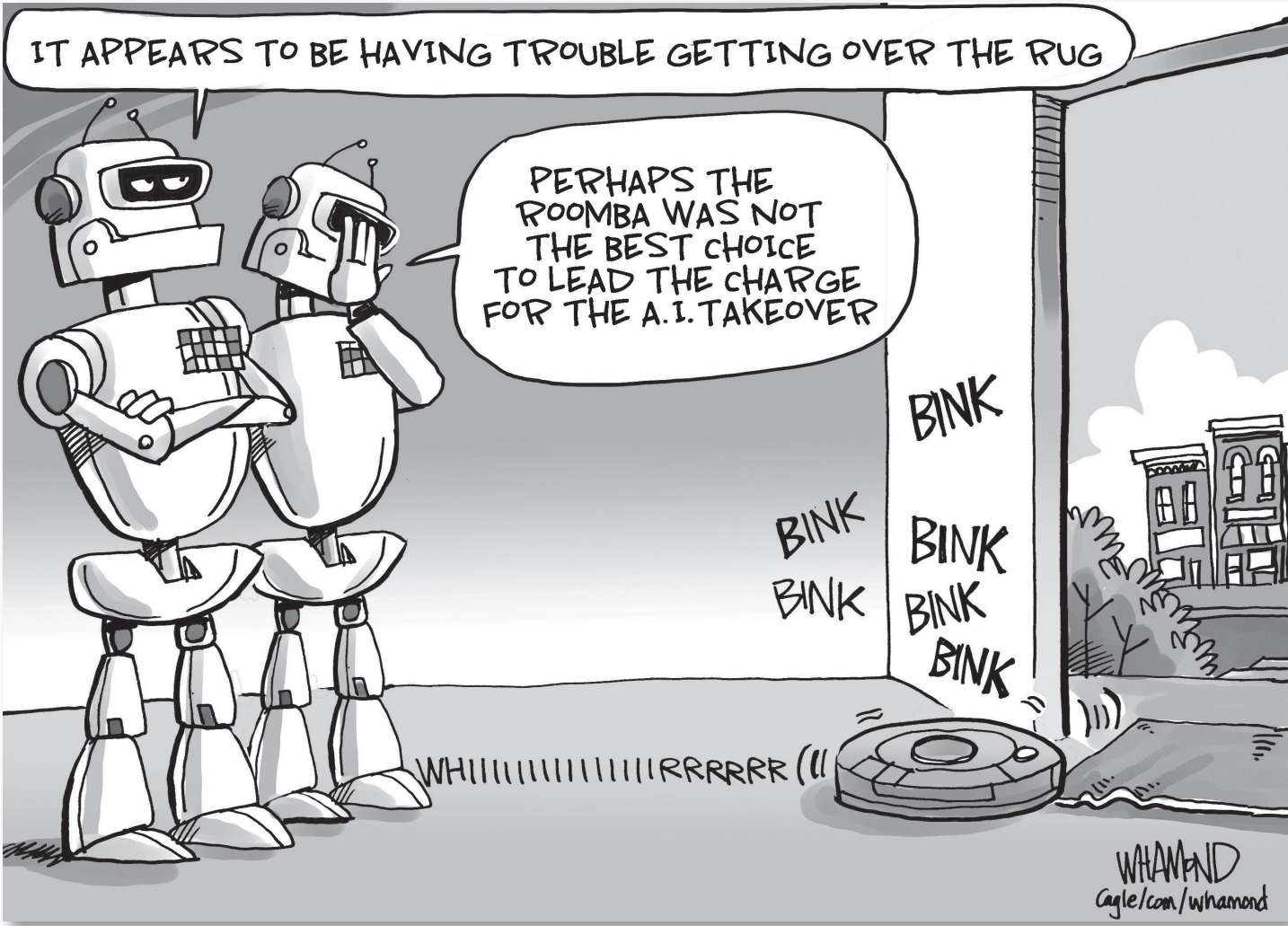
- Be hand signed.
- Include writer’s name, city and phone number as letters will be verified for authenticity.
- Be 500 words or less.
- Be received by 5 p.m. Monday to appear in that week’s edition.
- We reserve the right to print or not print reader’s contributions.

No malicious, slanderous or threatening letters will be allowed.

- Letters with political content will not be accepted the week preceding an election as it does not allow time for a response.

Corrections/Clarifications Policy:

- Any corrections or clarifications that need to be published in the Linn County News are published on the Opinion page after such corrections or clarifications are deemed necessary by the publisher.



AFP-Kansas statement on State Supreme Court nominations

TOPEKA, KS - Americans for Prosperity-Kansas (AFP-KS) urged voters to reject Kansas’ system for selecting state Supreme Court justices today after an unelected commission selected two unfit judges and an attorney as candidates to replace Justice Evelyn Wilson on the high court.

AFP-KS, the state’s largest

grassroots advocacy organization, is currently canvassing in communities across the state to build support for a constitutional amendment on the ballot next year that would abolish the current nomination process in favor of direct election of justices.

Elizabeth Patton, AFP-KS state director, gave the following statement:

“The candidates chosen by the Supreme Court Nominating Commission today demonstrate the complete lack of transparency and accountability in the nomination process. Unsurprisingly, this unelected commission of progressive Democrats voted unanimously for these candidates, one of whom will become Democratic Governor

Laura Kelly’s fourth appointment to the Kansas Supreme Court.

“It’s time to reject this rigged system and give all Kansans the opportunity to create a more impartial court. Kansas deserves better than a court of party loyalists who put their agenda above our constitution.”

Assessing Arizona’s ‘veto queen’

BY JOE GUZZARDI

Of the 1,287,891 Arizonans who cast their 2022 gubernatorial votes for Democrat Katie Hobbs to replace term-out Republican Doug Ducey, at least 25-percent would likely want to take their votes back. Hobbs has proven to be, at best, ineffective and, at worst, a viable threat to national security.

Hobbs’ latest gubernatorial action, consistent with her apparent indifference to Arizonans’ well-being, was to veto a bill intended to prevent nationals from the People’s Republic of China from purchasing Arizona property. The measure sought to add Arizona to the growing list of states that, because of national security concerns, ban the communist nation from acquiring U.S. land.

In her veto message, Hobbs stated that while protecting infrastructure is important, the bill is “ineffective at counterespionage and does not directly protect our military assets.” Senate Majority Leader Janae Shamp, who sponsored the legislation, slammed Hobbs for the veto and called out the governor for threatening state and national security. Shamp pointed to China’s recent effort to lease property near Luke Air Force Base in the west Phoenix suburb of Glendale. Luke serves as a primary

training base for F-35 stealth fighter pilots from the U.S. and several allies.

The bill also applied to Chinese citizens unless they are permanent U.S. residents. The only exception was for homes on less than two acres located at least 50 miles from a military base or 25 miles from a military practice range—meaning not in Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma, Flagstaff or Sierra Vista.

The “veto queen”

Around Arizona, Hobbs has earned the nickname “Veto Queen.” She has already smashed the Arizona veto record during her first two years as governor, killing 216 bills: 143 in 2023 and 73 in 2024. Democratic Governor Janet Napolitano previously held the record with 181 bills vetoed from 2003-09. Hobbs is running up her winning margin, with 138 vetoes so far this year, as she approaches surpassing her 2023 record.

In defiance of the Department of Homeland Security, Hobbs has vetoed multiple Republican-backed bills that would have forced cooperation with federal immigration and deportation efforts, including three border-related bills on May 12. The Democratic governor’s vetoes demonstrate that she will not embrace federal immigration law, even as the Republican-majority Legislature

SEE **VETO QUEEN, A3**

The Mad-Libs Incumbency

In late April, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District of Columbia’s delegate to the U.S. House for these last 35 years, “stumbled through a short speech in which she appeared to struggle with both reading and comprehension, unable to deliver more than a garbled, Mad Libs-style version of her intended remarks,” according to a report in *Washingtonian* magazine and confirmed by an audio recording.

Annie Karni’s story last week in the *The New York Times* discloses concerns among Norton’s “colleagues and friends” of “a notable decline ... that has quieted her voice, leaving her vastly diminished and struggling to fulfill her congressional duties.”

Karni’s other tidbits?

“In hearings, she often sits quiet and alone, sometimes relying on staff aides to remind her where she is.”

“She sometimes does not seem to recognize people she has known for years.”

“Ms. Norton is unable to function independently.”

That means she is unable to function as an effective representative of the people

of Washington, D.C.

“In Ms. Norton’s case, the signs have been evident for years,” explains *The Times* article. Her activity on the House floor has dwindled precipitously.”

Still, when questioned earlier this week about possible retirement, Norton declared, “I’m going to run. I don’t know why anybody would even ask me.”

The 88-year-old non-voting delegate from our nation’s capital would be 90 if reelected next year and able to complete a 14th term. When of course she might yet run again.

“Ms. Norton’s story is a familiar one in Congress,” acknowledges *The Times* reporter, “an institution littered with towering figures who have stayed around well past the prime of their lives.”

Yet this is not really about age. It’s about incumbency. Politicians leveraging their positions for unlimited rule ... resulting in rule by the old, the doddering, the feeble.

We all know—’cept for incumbent politicians — that the answer is term limits.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

Watch for the Independence Day list of events and special tribute coming up!