

Readers open up on 'values' question

When people talk about "values," just what are they talking about? That question has been lingering in the back of our mind for a long time. Often you hear politicians wrap themselves in that word, but rarely do they explain exactly what they mean. But it sounds good and, to a politician, sound is everything. So, we set out this past week to see what our readers had to say about "values." The responses received to date appear below. We encourage you to get involved in the debate. Remember, you need not identify yourself, or if you want us to use your name, just let us know. Send your take on "values" to tomd@nwkansas.com, fax (785) 877-3732, write us at 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop off your submission at the office. These replies are not letters to the editor, but instead they are responses to a question. We'll be looking for your answer. Thanks. - Tomd

Values are the positive attributes we would like to see in others and, perhaps in the future, would like to see in ourselves. They are models or goals for behavior that we think all of society should achieve to guide our behavior. These attributes provide the adhesive, the glue of civilized relationships with others inside and outside our households. They provide order and structure to our social interactions.

Values are not limited to a region, although we might find their expression or practice more common in some regions than others. Nor are they attributes we are born with. They are developed, we hope, as children learn and mature. They are not necessarily religious, but many people would include the Sermon on the Mount or Ten Commandments which contain guides to desired behavior for all civilizations.

For specific values, we probably would top our list with truthfulness/integrity/good character. That trait begins a longer list of desired traits that includes fairness, compassion, understanding, self control, generosity, hard work, self reliance, decency, and saying what you mean and meaning what you say.

Perhaps the essence of all positive values is found in the Golden Rule, however we state it. Treat others as we want others to treat us. Behave as we would like others to behave.

(The writer is Tom Depperschmidt, professor of economics at Memphis State University, Memphis, Tenn. — e-mail)

I think your request is unfair. What are values? Depends on the generation responding. My grandparents think there are no such things as values anymore. They tie values to religion, in other words if you don't go to church every Sunday nothing else matters. I think differently. I think as much as church has a role in our lives, values must also include how you treat others, honesty in the workplace, community service, helping others. Get my point? (e-mail)

I thought long and hard on this. I think values are things like sticking a marriage out, for better or worse, living up to a commitment made before God and a church full of people. If you fail at that, you fail at life. (e-mail)

To me values are a commercial property. (Just sign me a "Logan loner" — e-mail)

Values to me are those things you mix into a bowl of society's ills, hoping to turn the tide. We are, for most part, a sick, very sick bunch of humans disregarding teachings that brought about an America that was, at one time, the shining star in the heavens. But no more. Morality has been kicked aside as an old-fashioned theory used only to scare people into doing good. Not until we come to our senses will we be able to recover what we've lost, like honesty, integrity, truthfulness, goodness to others and the will to change what we hear and see on the big screens and the little screens all across our land. Pre-martial sex is wrong. "Playing house" before marriage is wrong. Same sex unions are wrong. The influences that come into our lives today belittle these "values" and have, sadly, convinced many millions of us to believe all of this is now OK. Do we have the will to change? (received by regular mail)



I'm glad my sibling didn't do as I did

I have a retired brother in Tulsa who, after reading my editorial on the U.S. flag, said that if he put into play the action I took in not displaying an American flag made in China, he'd have to walk around naked. That's what he said.

Pressed to explain, he put it this way: "Well, Thomas, you see my shoes were made in China, my socks in India, my pants in Mexico, my underwear in Japan, my shirt in Taiwan and my belt in Africa. While this might bring a wink and a smile from the Mrs., it certainly wouldn't set well in our favorite restaurant."

The family could always count on Gene to liven things up when we get together. I always said and continue to say, that he would be a natural on "Comedy Central." And I'm thankful that retirement hasn't robbed him of his ability to light-heartedly assess situations as they arise.

I see where the House of Representatives took action this week to ban gambling on cable television. The Senate isn't in any hurry to take up the issue. Better watch out, gang, because if things like this continue, we won't need television listings in our newspapers, we'll have to call Congress to see what they'll let us watch.

Wow! I can now sleep better. Oprah is straight! And she makes that clear in an

Good Evening Norton

Tom Dreiling



article in her magazine due out this week. I guess there has been some talk in the land of the riches that she might be otherwise. Let me see if I have this right: we've got a war going on; floods are washing people's possessions away; forest fires are burning down homes and businesses; tornadoes are killing and destructing; terrorists are causing chaos all over the globe; Katrina's effects are still being felt. And now taking equal billing is the fact that Oprah is straight, and also that Christie Brinkley and her fourth husband have separated.!

Makes you want to upchuck, doesn't it!?

Just a brief reminder that July 17, 5 p.m. is the deadline to register to vote in the Aug. 1 primary if you need to do so. You can register at the Norton City Office, Almena City Office, Lenora City Office, the Norton Library, or the Norton County Clerk's Office. If you need more information, please feel free to call any of the listed

registration sites. For the most part it's been an awfully quiet campaign season. There are a few races to settle (none locally) and I thought they would result in barnburners. But they haven't — yet, that is!

Did you remember to say something positive about Norton/Norton County yet today?

Susie (Marble), our employee from the Almena area, was all excited Thursday morning. As I walked into the office, she said, "How much rain did Norton get last night?" The answer was easy, "None." She then said that the storm clouds that moved into their area dumped better than an inch. She said at first glance it didn't look like they were going to get anything, but then as the clouds built and formed, they stayed around for quite a while and during that time started pouring down rain. That was good news — for the Almena area.

By this time next month, our schools will be just days away from the new school term. Boy, talk about time going by fast.

Have a good evening and weekend. And remember church beckons.

Vacation rain is really no big deal at all

It's raining. It's pouring. It's wonderful. Unfortunately, I'm on vacation in southern Colorado. I shouldn't say unfortunately; they need moisture out here as bad as we do. There are no forest fires going on around here right now, but one earlier this year burned hundreds of acres and caused traffic jams on the highway over La Veta Pass because of the smoke and ash.

The rain isn't bothering us. We just wait for a break and run out for a quick walk. The rest of the time, we sit around and read, shop in town, work around the house, play cards and listen to baseball games on the radio.

The sun will come out. I'm sure of it. Then we'll be able to get out into the woods to go for our walks, go fishing and do outdoor-type things.

The folks I feel sorry for are those who are trying to camp out.

Open Season

Cynthia Haynes



It's just not much fun to be tent camping when it's raining day and night.

Your clothes are wet. Your bed is wet. You can't start a fire to cook and conditions are generally miserable.

You have to be really crazy to enjoy that kind of vacation.

The others I feel sorry for are the rich. We went out to a posh guest ranch for dinner the other night. Steve owed me a fancy dinner out and this place takes a few folks from town in the restaurant along

with their guests, who pay about \$300 a person per day to enjoy the outdoor experience and three fancy meals a day.

The restaurant has a top-notch chef and the food was excellent, but the waitress told us that it had been raining every day for more than a week, which had made the horseback riding, backpacking, fishing and boating a bit dicey, not to mention damp, for the folks forking out the big bucks.

I was really amazed at the number of people, many from Europe — we heard at least three languages during supper — who can afford to pay that kind of money to take their families to the mountains for a week or two.

Back when we were young and took the kids to Colorado, we were the ones sitting out in the rain with no fire and wet clothes.

The kids loved it, but then I always said they were crazy.

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THUMBS UP TO...

✓Lloyd and Glenna Sproul, congratulations on your 65 years of marriage. (e-mail)

✓Liza Deines, on your continuing efforts to keep in touch with Telegram readers. Much appreciated!

✓Local and area businesses, on the state recognition accorded as reported in the July 7 Telegram.

✓Kelsey Kinderknecht, good luck at the National High School Rodeo Finals. (friends)

✓Mike Cliff, Dave and Sue Mora and Verne Davis, you are great movers!

✓Norton School District taxpayers, for the super new turf laid at Travis Field. (e-mail from an appreciative athlete)

✓Lisa Jones and Mathew Shepard, Norton and Lenora, respectively, on your selection to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp at Steamboat Springs, Colo., and to your sponsor Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
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Marion R. Krehbiel, editor

