

'Without religion, you have no values'

This pretty much wraps up the "values" debate. I hope you found it as interesting as I did. If you have a topic you would like discussed, let me know, I'll see what we can do about it. Thanks to all who took part in this dialogue. TomD

There is a difference between "values" and "family values." I think you probably mean "family values." Those are the things that have gotten us through tough times. Sticking together. Sacrificing. Praying together. Acting as one unit. I have my parents to thank for instilling those "family values" in me. (e-mail)

Values are what brings you through when all else fails. (Liza Deines)

Let's face it, sir. Without religion you have no values. (e-mail)

We always look to Sunday as being the first and most important day of the week. We attend church together as a family on that day. At dinner, we discuss what was said from the pulpit. The rest of the week, we look to our Bible for advice. Without faith, values, of any kind are hollow. (e-mail)

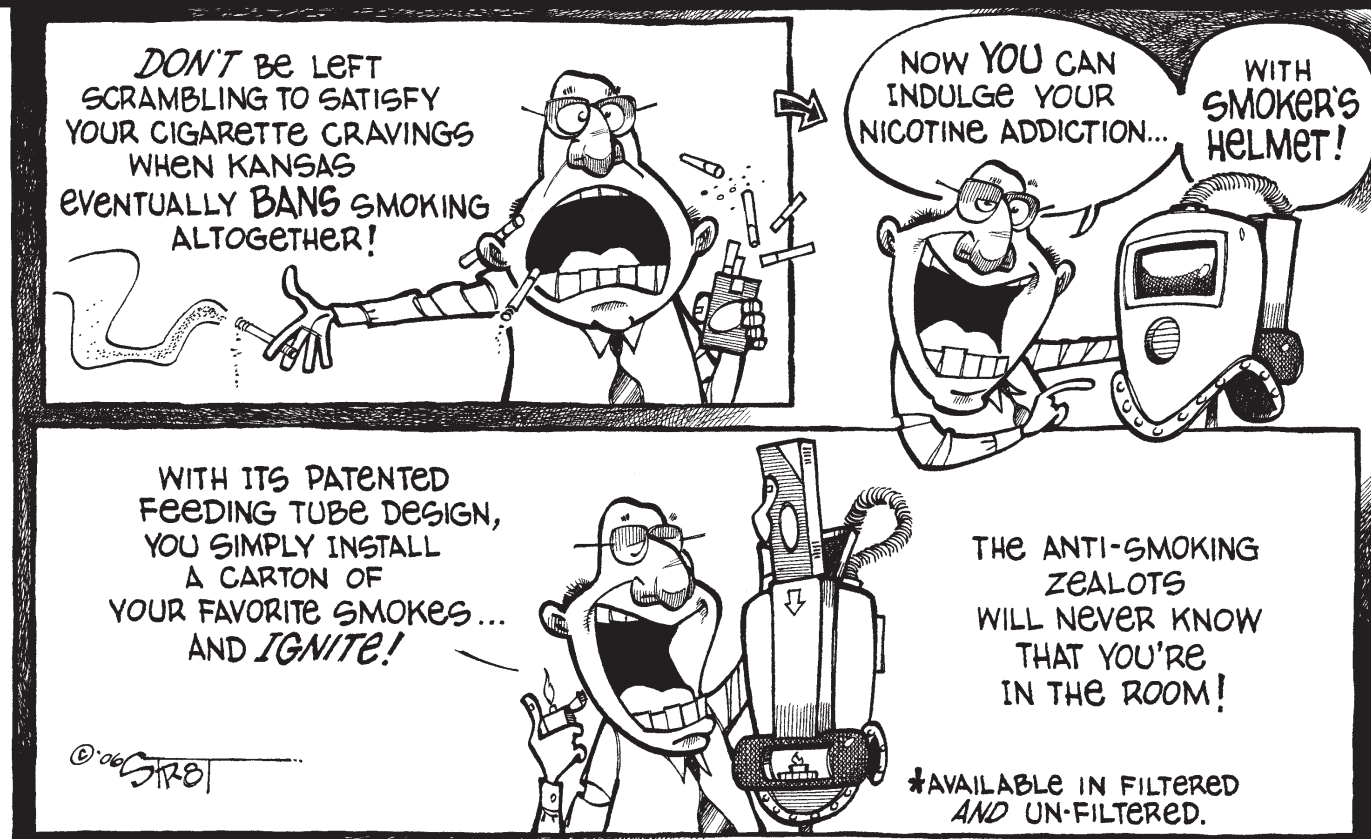
Interesting debate. I have been following it and I take a whole new view of the word. I am not a church goer, that bears too much responsibility and accountability for me. Truthfully, there are too few people who could live up to its expectations. Going to church does not make you a religious person, no more than going to a doctor's office makes you a doctor. In my place of employment, there are a couple of people who infer that without church attendance you are a lost soul. These same people, after doing their churchly thing, can hardly wait until Monday morning to begin ripping the heart and soul out of people they don't like. What good is going to church if this is the end result? How soon we forget the purpose of church attendance. I live the kind of life that does not worry me if death knocks on my door. I think each person's God has a tally sheet and near the top are categories such as Goodness, Compassion, Understanding, Helping, Service. I score high in those areas. I score low in church attendance. How will I be judged? I wouldn't swap my chances for anyone else's. (regular mail)

You bait. You cast. You hook. That in itself does not make you a fisherman. But it does make you feel pretty good. Same way with values. It's the way you go about what you are doing that counts. If you are kind and considerate, and willing to accept that which does not particularly meet your standards, you feel good about that decision. Values are really simple little deeds. (fax)

I am a *Telegram* subscriber located elsewhere in the state, and a former Norton countian. To me values are as apparent as the nose on my face. Having grown up in a small, rural setting and now living in a metro area, I view things much differently than do those people who grew up in the city I now call home. Values vary, don't let anyone tell you otherwise. What I think is wrong many times isn't with the people I socialize with. Same sex marriage to me is wrong, but my friends see it as a progressive step that will ultimately become just a way of life. It's things like this that separate people on the values question. (Just sign me a [Proud Blue Jay](#). Thank you.)

Today its 'values.' A decade or two ago it was, 'moral absolutes' or 'the moral climate' or 'morality.' Not anymore. Those archaic terms suggest right and wrong, or perhaps have a bit of religious connotation to them. Honestly, they make me feel bad. So let's just say 'values.' It's not quite so, well, um..direct or to the point. 'Values' is vague, generic and non-specific. It can mean many things to many people. Ha! Isn't that what this dialogue is revealing? It's like the term 'issues.' Do you have issues? I don't. I have 'problems'. But 'problems' sounds well..rather problematic, painful and downright rude. So let's just say 'issues.' But then again, 20 years ago I had a temper. Then, 10 years ago it was 'anger management.' Now it is Intermittent Explosive Disorder (IED). No wonder I feel so bad.

To sum it up, 'values' has no value. (e-mail)



Now the question is: who pays the bill?

According to polls, Americans aren't overly sympathetic with fellow Americans stranded in Beirut and other locations in the war torn Middle East where missiles and rockets and falling bombs demolish and kill in places they are near. Americans, by a majority, don't think taxpayers should pick up the tab to bring the stranded Americans home from an area they were warned not to visit, or be overly cautious if they did. Many of those stranded are vacationing, or studying at universities in that region. When it was announced early on that the stranded Americans would be billed for the return trip to the U.S., they were up in arms! Twenty-four hours later some of our politicians and other people of influence got that order struck down and said they would not have to foot the bill for the return trip.

You and I will pick up the tab. What do you think? Many of you took part in our "values" debate (the final version appears in today's editorial column) and I hope you will also participate in this one. The reason for the good response on "values" was due to the fact you did not have to sign your comment. The same applies to this newest topic. E-mail me at tomd@nwkansas.com, fax me at (785) 877-3732, write me at 215 S. Kansas Avenue, Norton 67654 or drop by the office. We received quite a bit of good feedback from readers as the "values" debate

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



unfolded. It goes to show that you are interested in things like this and are interested to know how others in the community/area feel.

So, the issue now is: Should stranded Americans get a free ride home from the war Middle East war zone?

Should be interesting.

Just where is our state located? Depends on what television channel you are watching. I thought for many, many years we were in the Midwest. That's not necessarily so anymore. Weathermen/women have put us in the west, upper midwest, southcentral and last night they were talking about the sizzling temperatures in the southeast part of the U.S., mentioning such cities as Atlanta, Nashville, Miami, Charlotte, Virginia Beach, New Orleans, Wichita — whoa there, Nellie! Wichita? Southeast?

I guess Kansas being smack-dab in the middle of the country throws them off. They just don't know where to put us, so we have sort of become the "filler" state,

fill us in wherever. Silly.

August 1 is primary election day in Kansas. There are some statewide races involving Republican and Democrat candidates, but one race in particular will have the attention of many Kansans and that is the District 5 (our district) State Board of Education race between incumbent Republican Connie Morris of St. Francis and Republican challenger Sally Cauble of Liberal. Connie Morris has been an outspoken and controversial figure on the state board. She has, putting it mildly, upset Republican moderates and others. Whether Connie can withstand the challenge remains to be seen. But this race alone should drag a lot of folks to the polls on Aug. 1.

Adam, "I'll have a little bacon with those scrambled eggs and hashbrowns." Eve, "What in the world are you talking about?!"

Wednesday was a banner day for me. I pulled up at a gas pump here in Norton to fill up my pickup, and the pump wasn't working, thanks to a power outage. Folks over in Colby where I went for a meeting, asked me how much gas was at Norton. I told them "nothing."

Have a good evening and weekend. Add church to your schedule.

FROM THE MAILBAG:

Valley Hope hopes community will support this event

To the Editor, A Night to Remember, Friday, Aug. 18, 2006.

We gather to celebrate our connection to one another and honor special people in our lives. We gather to offer hope and help to the addicts and alcoholics still suffering. This is a special event on the evening before Norton's 39th anniversary party, the Alkathon.

Please join us for "A Night to Remember," on Friday, Aug. 18 at 10:30 p.m. on the front lawn of Valley Hope for a gratitude meeting and candlelight vigil. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, flashlight and

candle. We'll provide coffee and refreshments.

To benefit the patient fund (and illuminate the gathering), we are providing luminaries for a small donation (minimum \$10). This fund helps Norton Valley Hope patients with immediate needs, such as books and personal hygiene items. Those sponsoring luminaries will be acknowledged during the evening. If you are unable to join us, this is a great way to share your light, honor someone special and help us help others.

Please consider making a donation to sponsor a luminary (and help the patient

fund) by visiting our website: www.valleyhope.com, click "help us help others," then "donate" (specify in the comment box your donation is for a luminary). Or contact the Valley Hope Association Foundation office at (785) 877-4483.

People come into our lives for a reason, season or a lifetime. Please join us under the stars for an evening of gratitude and fellowship honoring one another.

Megan K. O'Connor, BS, ADAC
Director of Development
Valley Hope Association Foundation
Norton

Engineer thanks Jennings, gives update on road work

To the Editor, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Jennings for their cooperation, patience and understanding throughout the re-construction of K-383 Highway within the town's city limits.

Many city streets were closed throughout the process of replacing the concrete curb and gutter inlets as well as rebuilding the roadbed and the new 14.5 inch-thick driving surface. In spite of the closures, the city officials, business owners and local citizens were a pleasure to work with and accommodating to both Kansas

Department of Transportation's engineers and Venture Corporation's field staff.

In the following two to three weeks, Venture Corporation's asphalt plant will be moved from Brewster to Jennings (across from the Coop Elevator). During this time, the contractors will place the top lift of asphalt throughout the city limits and complete the side roads throughout town. This will all be done under temporary traffic control. Venture will then progress with the milling and seven-inch overlay of the remaining seven miles of

K-383 to the Norton/Decatur County line. Crews will also widen the dirt shoulders to improve the current safety standards.

Pilot cars will take travelers through the remainder of the work on K-383. So, travelers should plan ahead for a minimum delay of 15 minutes or less.

Again, thanks to all those who have helped contribute toward the ongoing success of this major road construction project.

Sincerely,
KDOT Area Two Engineer
Eric Oelschlager

THUMBS UP TO...

- ✓ **Bob Kaus**, for all you do with such willingness for your neighbors. Truly, you enjoy giving to others. (e-mail from your neighbors)
- ✓ **Ruthie Brown**, who, despite having cancer and problems of her own, has been out in this heat raising money for Norton CARES.
- ✓ **The people of Norton**, appreciate what you've got living out there where trust and truth are a way of life and traffic isn't! (e-mail from Liza Deines)
- ✓ **Fred Hawk**, on your 70th birthday. (e-mail)
- ✓ **Jessica Cook, Sara Campbell and Jessie Redeker**, candidates for Norton County Saddle Club Queen, and **Adrienne Hager and Ashley Esslinger**, candidates for Saddle Club Princess.
- ✓ **Mary Sedlmayer**, for sharing your parrots.
- ✓ **Kathy Skrdlant**, we continue pulling for you. (e-mail from a bunch of friends)
- ✓ **Charlie and Dorothy Ankenman**, on your 60th wedding anniversary. (e-mail)

(Send to: tomd@nwkansas.com, fax 877-3732, mail 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks!)

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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

ISSN 1063-701X
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002
Incorporating the Norton County Champion
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor

STAFF
Tom Dreiling editor and publisher
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Sherry Hickman bookkeeping/circulation
Vicki Henderson computer production
Susie Marble computer production
Hypatia Day advertising

KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION, INC.
20 04
NINA
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION