

Nice words about us also contain a plea

A Goodland family has some mighty nice things to say about Norton, and at the same time also addressing a concern — a concern about removal of trees. A letter from the family arrived at *The Telegram* office on Thursday. We can take pride in what they had to say about us as a community, and at the same time ponder their concern. We will let their letter do the talking. — The Publisher

To the Editor,
This past July, Norton was host to the District 4-H Horse Show. I would like to commend all those responsible for putting it on and taking care of the numerous tasks a show of that size requires. We were treated with courtesy and provided valuable information no matter who we consulted.

Norton has some fine facilities and we will return next year to their show and hopefully to the District Show if they again host the event.

It has been brought to my attention that the trees on the sight are in danger of being removed. I would like to say as an outsider who has no vested interest, I think it would be a mistake to get rid of the trees.

I cannot express to you how nice it was to be able to park at a show with shade for us and our horses. We thought the trees were beautiful, as well as functional.

We try to go to several shows throughout the 4-H horse season and Norton is at the top of the list as far as comforts and facilities.

Save your trees! They are one of many things you have going for you.

My family and I look forward to a "shady" parking place next year in Norton and again extend our thanks to your community and the "Horse folks" for your wonderful hospitality.

Sincerely,
Kevin, Barb and Sydney Winston
4-H Horse Family
Goodland

Thumbs Up to . . .

✓ **Jared Engelbert and Hannah Mills**, 2006 Homecoming King and Queen at Norton Community High School. (e-mail)

✓ **Travis Ray**, week #4 winner of the Pigskin Pick-Em Contest. (e-mail)

✓ **Wade Carter**, Norton County's new economic development director.

✓ **Mike Jensen**, 1985 Norton Community High School graduate, on being named chief marketing officer at Olathe Health Systems, Inc.

✓ **Norton County Arts Council**, on your Sunday "Homes Tour."

✓ **Layne and Jared**, on the courtesy you always extend customers at your respective grocery stores. (e-mail)

✓ **To everyone** involved in the Norton Community High School's homecoming parade and pep rally. Good show, kids! (e-mail)

✓ **Logan Kats**, for speaking up for Justin Bainter and the Class of 2008. (by mail)

✓ **Kelly Karnopp**, for letting Howard take the drive of a lifetime at Elmwood Park Speedway. (by mail)

(Submit your salute to tomd@nwkansas.com, fax 877-3732, call 877-6908, or mail to, or drop by the office, 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654.)

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★ **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124

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Lots to ponder on the political front

From my personal political notepad: I hear that Connie Morris, this district's member on the state Board of Education, might attempt a write-in at the Nov. 7 general election. As you remember, Connie lost to Sally Cauble of Liberal in the August primary. This is all rumor and if I was a betting man I would bet Connie won't take that route. Write-ins are seldom successful.

And for a Morris write-in campaign to get up and running these few weeks before the election, wouldn't work. Just too late. But it would have been interesting.

Speaking of campaigns, if you are looking for the Norton Republican and Democrat headquarters, I think you'll find them directly south across the street from the Catholic Church. With the yard signs dotting the landscape of the two homes at that location, it looks pretty official.

Kidding aside, I like to see that kind of involvement. Just seems that anymore we don't take the time to acknowledge those who seek office. It's time consuming and costly, and when we display their signs, that's sort of our way of thanking them for getting involved in the process.

I see where the Sebelius-Barnett campaign is starting to take on some form of life. It's been pretty dull up to this point, but with Mr. Barnett now moving onto the television screens, I see Gov. Sebelius taking note and responding accordingly. I wonder how many millions of dollars that campaign is going to ultimately cost.

Good Evening Norton

Tom Dreiling



Television gets paid handsomely to dress up their message, while spending less than a drop in the bucket with the print media. But guess where they go to get their FREE stories told.

You're right!

That race between Republican incumbent Attorney General Pill Kline and Democrat Paul Morrison is as tight as a drum. At this point, it's a toss up. Morrison mentions his western Kansas roots, and Kline claims a friendship with lots of folks out in these parts. But their campaigns are centered in the metro areas where there are more roots and friends (I think that's spelled v-o-t-e-s)

I was asked at the grocery store Tuesday evening what I thought was behind the dramatic drop in gas prices at the pump. It didn't take me long to respond, "Nov. 7."

End of scribbles from my personal political notepad

-td-

The biggest farce on the international

stage is that so-called Saddam Hussein trial. Do you really think he will eventually be sentenced to life or death? I just have a strange feeling that's not part of the game plan. Time will tell.

-td-

And reports are that a fire fighter on the West Coast was fired from his job because he wouldn't learn Spanish to enable him to communicate with those who don't speak English?! Isn't English this country's tongue? And shouldn't it be the responsibility of those taking up residency in the Nifty 50 from other lands to learn English? Something's wrong somewhere.

-td-

Just for Men hair coloring commercials get the best of me (and not because I have no hair to color). The guy in one particular commercial has rust colored hair with some gray showing through. The *Just for Men* voice-over says, "return your hair to its natural color." Whoa, Nellie! Your hair's natural color is what it grows in to be. If gray shows through that is natural, but if you apply the product mentioned above to change it, that's not natural. Duh?!

-td-

One more day and September 2006 is history. We then move into October, a month that brings a couple of notable events: (1) Halloween, and (2) We move our clocks back one hour on the 29th.

-td-

Have a good weekend and have a good reunion at the church of your choice.

We must always be mindful of others

I suppose it is the same for all writers; sometimes you can't type the words fast enough and other times you draw a blank. And still other times you write something, pour over it time and again and still wonder if printing it is a good thing. Such it was and is with the following piece.

I do not want to polarize our community nor do I want to anger anyone, but it is something that happened which makes it newsworthy. It is something which happened to a friend and it is a sadness to me that whenever this person thinks of us she will immediately remember us as intolerant. No matter the goodness, which has been the main ingredient of her short time here, fear has a way of becoming the loudest voice in our heads.

Prayer times are very special to our friend. As a Muslim, and a stranger in a strange land, she looks to these times as ones to connect with her roots and share her beliefs with her young child. A highly educated woman, who speaks impeccable English, it is hard to imagine anyone who would want to hurt her.

She lived through 9/11 in New York City without racial or religious slurs aimed at her and yet she comes to Middle

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



America and the heart of fundamentalism rears its ugly head to try to hurt and frighten her.

You and I know it probably is only a few who feel as the harasser does, but it affects us all. Fear and ignorance are the foundations of prejudice. I believed we had moved beyond the fear of Muslims and realized they, like Christians, Jews, or other world religions have both the good and the evil. One of the best descriptions of extremists of any religion was aired on West Wing the week after 9-11-01.

It was, "The Al Qaeda is to Islam what the Ku Klux Klan is to Christianity." The sad thing about that statement is, unfortunately, many who hate Muslims also hate blacks and Jews and wouldn't mind being compared to the KKK.

When someone acts out his or her fear and ignorance by trying to intimidate another we have certainly failed our Christian founder and certainly are a sorry representative of the Christian faith.

Hate crimes are a criminal offense and according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, harassment or intimidation falls into this category. What we all must realize is whenever we speak or write in a way to incite anger or provoke an attack we are equally as guilty as the one who shouts the racial slurs or the anti-religious taunts. If our words provoke harassment we must shoulder our share of the blame.

Whenever we clump a group of people together and assume we know each person's mindset i.e., peaceful or obedient, we have committed a crime ourselves. Lest we forget, the worst terrorist attack in our country up to that time was committed by a fair-haired young man with ties to Kansas, Timothy McVeigh.

"The simple truth about hate crimes is that each act victimizes not one person but many." •• And because of the acts of a few we have all been victimized. I apologize to our friend for the few.

••www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/162304.pdf

Share your thoughts with a Letter to the Editor