

## Many helped ease the pain

The editor is surrendering this space today to a popular Norton teacher, Nancy Sebelius, who was overwhelmed by the show of support from the community, the school district, her family, friends and others after she slipped on the ice and broke her hip. The misfortune enabled her to again say what many others have said and continue to say, "There is not a kinder nor more caring place than Norton, Kansas!"

### In Her Own Words

If you HAVE to break your hip, (and I am not suggesting that anyone do THAT!) surely there is not a kinder nor more caring place than Norton, Kansas!

Within minutes of slipping and falling on the ice in front of Eisenhower Elementary School, fifth grader Alex Hager helped me get back on my feet, (or at least my right foot!) Principal Corey Roy helped me sit down and collect myself. Dana Madden and Cathy Brennan carried me up to Wendy Haresnape's room for the fifth and sixth grade Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl. Lynn Hehn and others stopped by to help. The fifth and sixth grade students were GREAT and got right to work practicing! Vicki Enfield made an appointment at the clinic, drove me up there, and then transported me to the hospital. Corey Roy called Doug so he would be there. Thank you all for your help and support!

At the Doctors' Clinic and the hospital, the nurses, receptionists, physician's assistant, and technicians were all caring, efficient and knowledgeable. The EMT/ambulance drivers were also kind and efficient. We are fortunate to have such excellent professionals in Norton!

A band of fellow teachers from Eisenhower drove up to Good Samaritan Hospital to visit me, as did the McClymonts, Lew Van Der Wege, and Dick and Amber Norman. My room was filled with laughter, plants and flowers from friends and relatives in Norton. Thank you all for making my brief stay bright and cheerful!

While I was recuperating, Eisenhower teachers and dear friends, brought the most wonderful meals to me and my family! I've never eaten as well as those ten days! Thank you all for your kindness and generosity.

As always, the faculties at Eisenhower, Norton Junior High School and Norton Senior High School have all been incredibly helpful and supportive. Linda Burge set up and conducted the fifth and sixth grade Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl competi-

tions, and Dr. Maurer assisted with the fifth grade competition. Norton's Invitational Scholars' Bowl is a complex undertaking which could never have occurred without the help and support of USD 211 faculty, staff and students. Thank you especially to Marla Bozarth and David Harshbarger, Greg Mann and Rudy Perez, Nan Smith, Mirla Coleman, David Will, Tom Hehn, Doug Sebelius, Trudy and Norm Stockham, Anne Stiles, Erin Manning, Valerie Lee, Lucas Melvin, Jason Jones, Jim Green, Lida Sharp, Erin Hill, Vicki Robison, Joan Hale, Brenda Mann, Claire Herman, Connie Miller and all those wonderful students who helped, especially Annette Becker, Mark Scheetz, Nathan Pollock, and Mathew Shepard. A huge thanks also to Regina Stark and the members of FCCLA for hosting the hospitality room.

Everyone in Norton and Almena has been friendly, solicitous and helpful, as always. Since I broke my hip, I have been absolutely overwhelmed with kindness, well wishes, prayers for healing and generosity. Thank you all, and thank you to the churches who remembered me with prayers.

I must also extend my gratitude to the Rural Fire Department. Two evenings before I broke my hip, we had a fire in our chimney. Within five minutes of my call, Shawn Gosselin was at my door. Within minutes of Shawn's arrival, the fire engine pulled up in front of our house. What a comfort! Even though the fire seemed to be under control, Mitch Jones took the precaution of measuring the heat being emitted from our chimney and through the walls. Thank you all, members of the Rural Fire Department for the peace of mind you gave to Doug and Drew and me.

When misfortunes or emergencies occur, it is a comfort and a blessing to know we are in such capable, caring hands! When misfortune occurs, or on all the other days of the year, it is a JOY to live in such a caring and generous community and county! Thank you all!

Sincerely and cheerfully,  
Nancy Gruver Sebelius

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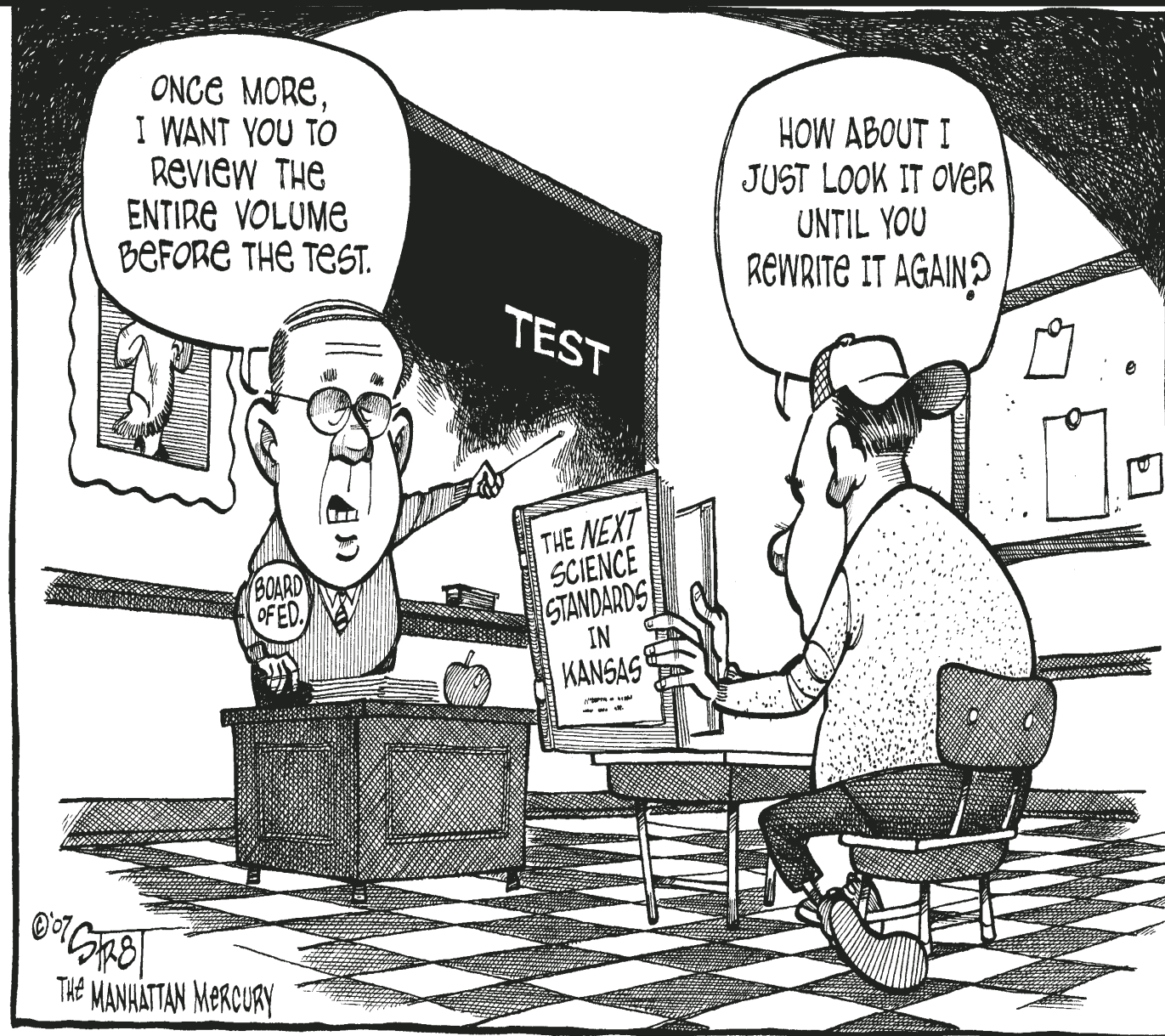
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## Big 'Welcome' to the wrestling fans

Welcome wrestling fans to the coolest (has nothing to do with the weather) community on Kansas US-36! Enjoy what we've got to offer. Visit our businesses. Take note of our schools. Browse around. And when you get ready to leave for home, keep Norton in the back of your mind for perhaps a weekend getaway, or a mini vacation in the summer. Remember, too, as you plan, we have that big pool of water southwest of town a few miles called Sebelius Reservoir. It's a favorite of many thousands of people who love the outdoors.

We know you'll be pretty much involved in the state's toughest Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament and won't get as much free time as you might want to explore Norton, so come back when the pace isn't as hectic. Our hospitality knows no season; it's a habit we have all year long.

The welcome mat will remain in place.

The Dixie Chicks, as you know, made off with quite a few awards at the Grammys last Sunday night. That should have made Shawn Hannity proud. Of course I say that with tongue-in-cheek. Shawn said on one of his programs a while back that he used to be a fan of the Dixie Chicks. He liked their music until they made a remark about President Bush that didn't set well with him. Now he doesn't see their music as being very good anymore. I liked Elvis' music, but didn't much care for Elvis; I liked Little Richard's music, despite his controversies; I liked The Village People's music, but didn't care for them as individuals; I liked the Beatles' music, but thought they were a bunch of creeps.

And the litany goes on and on. And despite the things I didn't like about those artists, I still, today, listen to their music. If I was going to give up on some musical talent because of things they said or did, I wouldn't have much of a library. But I

### Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



bet old Shawn, when no one's looking, slips in a Dixie Chicks CD and loves every minute of it.

-td-

I watch Shawn and Alan Colmes, I watch Bill O'Reilly, I don't watch Greta, I don't watch Larry King Live (boy the word "Live" in the show's title is really pushing the envelope), I don't watch Paula Zahn, but I do watch Wolf Blitzer and like Chris Wallace. I do spend a lot of time with C-SPAN. I enjoy the uninterrupted coverage. I like Smoky Hills Public Television. I have taken a liking to Glen Beck's show. The History Channel and The Learning Channel sometimes grab my attention. EWTN programming also fits into my schedule. I guess in a nutshell, variety is the spice of my television life.

I also have a couple of books I'm reading. When I do that I usually slip in a CD or two. I find softly played background music is good for concentration, along with a big cup of hot chocolate.

-td-

A fifteen year-old boy came home with a new Chevrolet Avalanche and his parents, quite concerned, asked, "Where did you get that truck?!" In a calm voice he said, "I bought it today."

"With what money?" asked his parents, who had a good idea what a Chevrolet Avalanche cost. "Well," said the boy, "this one cost me fifteen dollars." The parents looked at one another and said, "Who would sell a truck like that for fifteen dollars?"

"It was the lady up the street," said the

boy. "I don't know her name, they just moved in. She saw me ride past on my bike and asked me if I wanted to buy a Chevrolet Avalanche for fifteen dollars."

"Oh my goodness," said the mother, "she must be a child abuser. Who knows what she will do next?" John (husband) you go right up there and see what's going on."

So the boy's father walked up the street to the house where the lady lived and found her out in the yard planting petunias. He introduced himself as the father of the boy to whom she had sold a new Chevrolet Avalanche for fifteen dollars and wanted to know what that was all about.

"Well," she said, "this morning I got a phone call from my husband. I thought he was on a coffee break, but learned from a friend he had run off to Hawaii with his mistress and really doesn't intend to come back. He claimed he was stranded and asked me to sell his new Chevrolet Avalanche and send him the money. So I did."

-td-

Are you ready for this one? In Washington state, a proposed new bill would require couples to prove they can have children in order to get a marriage license. Then, if within three years they have no children, they would forfeit their marriage. Forces behind the proposed bill say that if same-sex couples can't marry because they can't have children together, then all couples who cannot or will not have kids together, should likewise be banned from marriage. They stand behind the claim that marriage exists solely for the purpose of having children.

Each day seems to bring a new wrinkle to the table.

What say you about this one?

-td-

Have a good evening and a good weekend. And like the good people who deliver the mail in all kinds of weather, let's deliver for Him at the church of your choice.

## Thumbs Up to . . .

✓ **Andrew Wells**, good luck in basic training with the Army Reserves. (e-mail)

✓ **Dick Thompson**, for your service to the Norton County Conservation District. Nice plaque! (e-mail)

✓ **Everyone** who thought to send a Valentine to a lonely person, who went to Andbe Home, or to Whispering Pines, or to the Senior Center to wish our seniors a Happy Valentine's Day. (e-mail)

✓ **The Telegram**, for running the front page prayer each publishing day, and the church page on Fridays. (e-mail)

✓ **Kevin Sides**, in your new role as a board member of the Norton County Conservation District. (via telephone)

✓ **Alta Fahrenbruch**, on your 80th birthday. (via telephone)

✓ **Doris Clydesdale**, Norton County Conservation District 2006 Windbreak Award winner. (e-mail)

✓ **The young man** (I don't know his name), who not only carried out my groceries at Jamboree, but also made sure I was able to safely get into my car on the icy surface. You are my hero. (e-mail)

✓ **Don, Clint and Curtis Lowry**, Norton County Conservation District's 2006 Soil Conservation Award winners. (e-mail)

✓ **Busy Beavers 4-H Club**, for Valentine favors brought to Whispering Pines. (called in)

(To submit a name or names for this weekly salute, e-mail tom@nwkansas.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop it off at the office. Thanks!)

Share your thoughts with a Letter to The Editor