

Big difference between these two

I receive all kinds of e-mail — good, bad, indifferent. You never know what awaits you when you go through the stuff each morning. I receive easily in excess of 1,000 e-mails during the week.

Much of it is junk. Lot of it deals with issues that the e-companies involved feel I need help with. You know, “manly” issues. I’ve got some disappointing news for them, my pipes and all attachments are fine. In other words, “get lost.”

Among the stuff received this week is the following from a Norton gent. It’s political, as is most everything these days.

It says: One day a florist goes to a barber for a haircut. After the cut he asked about his bill and the barber replies: “I’m sorry, I cannot accept money from you. I’m doing community service this week.” The florist is pleasantly pleased and leaves the shop. The next morning when the barber gets to his shop there is a thank you card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his



door.

Later, a cop comes in for a haircut, and when he goes to pay his bill the barber again replies: “I’m sorry, I cannot accept money from you. I’m doing community service this week.” The cop is delighted and leaves. The next morning when the barber goes to open up his place there is a thank you card and a dozen donuts waiting for him at his door.

Later a Republican comes in for a haircut, and when he goes to pay his bill the barber again replies: “I’m sorry, I cannot take money from you. I’m doing community service this week.” The Republican is overwhelmed and leaves. The next morning when the barber opens up the shop, there is a thank

you card and a dozen different books such as “How to Improve Your Business” and “Becoming More Successful.”

Later that morning, a Democrat comes in for a haircut, and when he goes to pay his bill the barber again replies: “I’m sorry, I cannot accept money from you. I’m doing community service this week.” The Democrat is overjoyed and leaves the shop.

The next morning when the barber goes to open up, there are a dozen Democrats lined up waiting for a free haircut.

The e-mailer summed up his submission this way: “This little story illustrates the fundamental difference between the left and the right. God Bless America!”

I have a hunch this won’t go without answer. Let’s see how wrong I am.

E-mail tomd@nwks.com, fax 877-3732 or regular mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave..

Column by Tom Dreiling Editor/Publisher

Living it up!



Norton students gathered 'round two of the featured performers during Tuesday evening's The Young Americans concert. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Whatever happens, they all win

World News Tonight on NBC recently highlighted what one might call a “growing trend.” It has been promoted by the Bush administration’s abstinence program and has gained the attention of Christian groups throughout the country. This particular “Closer Look” segment described the Saturday night dances not with the girl’s boyfriend, but with her father as her date.

This particular night was the Purity Ball, as it is called. It is meant to simulate a wedding or perhaps more appropriately an exchange of vows. The girl pledges to remain a virgin and the father pledges to protect her from those who might threaten her virginity. If it sounds a bit weird, well, it probably is. If it sounds a bit naïve, well it probably is that as well. According to the report, 88 percent of those who make such pledges are not virgins when they marry.

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



I can’t help but wonder, however, if the point hasn’t been lost. There are those who are critical of the program stating a concern for the young people’s lack of information to protect them from sexually transmitted diseases. Come on now, the girls pledged to refrain from sex, not from reading.

But to me the main issue is the wonderful relationship these girls will develop with their fathers and vice-versa. The time I spent with my dad was a treasure. Not long before my mother died, I asked her if my dad and I spent every evening hunting as I remembered. She replied, “Every evening pos-

sible.” I couldn’t wait to get home from school and feed the cattle, check the fences or drive through the pastures looking for rabbits. I learned so much from my dad, but mostly I learned about life as we drove along those bumpy dirt roads and rutted tracks in the pasture. I learned what is important and what isn’t. He taught me the connection of God, the land and my present life. We talked about the mistakes we have made, the mistakes we will make and how to keep going. We would sing his old fraternity songs and gather wildflowers in the pasture for my mother.

Perhaps the dance and the vows are only a front, an excuse if you will, for fathers and daughters to embrace, not just physically but from the very core of their being. If abstinence is the result wonderful, but whatever happens, everyone is a winner.

www.abcnews.go.com/WNT/story?id=2928607&page=1

County could receive \$172,456 reimbursement

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Federal Emergency Management application will reimburse Norton County for storm damage, saying the expected amount is \$172,456.59.

He also presented a Kansas Department of Transportation agreement for road J and L. The agreement, he said, is to cover work completed by the county during the road construction on Highway 36. Norton County had to complete work on the roads covered by the agreement due to detour work. The agreement between the transportation department and the count will be for a sum of \$18,625.75.

In an update on road maintenance, Mr. Brannan said some of the roads are drying up enough now to do some road blading, adding that there are still many roads too muddy to do anything with. He said the crews will work where possible.

Curt Archibald, Norton County Solid Waste supervisor, said he will be attending several

meetings this month, including the Department of Corrections training on the 15th and 16th, and HWS training on the 27th-29th. He will be taking several employees with him to these sessions.

Discussion was held on the opening of the second cell. Whitney Construction has reviewed the site and prepared a bid, Mr. Archibald said. The bid has been sent to BG Consultants for review, and to date no approval has been given.

County Counselor R. Douglas Sebelius presented the commissioners with an agreement for vision service. The agreement will be between Norton County and Prairie Wind Eyecare. The plan will be effective March 1, and plan benefits will be sent to each employee with an explanation of benefits provided. The plan specifies the employee responsibility, employer responsibility, Prairie Wind Eyecare responsibility, and the term of the agreement.

The commissioners and clerk signed the agreement as presented.

A memo will be sent to the county employees explaining the benefits and services offered to them through the new policy benefit.

The commissioners discussed current mapping and E911 issues with Alan Hale, Norton County Appraiser. Mr. Hale and his staff have been attending informational meetings that deal with funding and implementation of the system.

Another item concerned a letter from an inmate at the Norton County Jail, asking the commissioners to review the smoking and tobacco policy adopted several years ago. The inmate also asked the commissioners to review the current conditions of the jail and asked that they take a tour.

All three commissioners — Chairman John Miller, Leroy Lang and Richard Thompson were present for the meeting, as were County Counselor Sebelius and County Clerk Robert D. Wyatt.

The next meeting will be held Monday (March 12) at 9 a.m.

My prayers are with these families

Last Monday, I joined the family and friends of Lance Cpl. Brian Escalante for funeral services at First Baptist Church in Dodge City. Brian, 25, died on Feb. 17 in Iraq when a bomb exploded near the vehicle he was riding in. He graduated from Dodge City High School and attended Dodge City Community College before enlisting in the Marine Corps. He was awarded a posthumous Purple Heart for his brave service.

On Feb. 22, the Kansas Army National Guard’s Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery was attacked in Iraq. Battery B is headquartered in Dodge City with a detachment in Pratt, and other units on this mission are from across south central and southwest Kansas. Several service members were wounded. The attack also resulted in the death of Staff Sgt. David Berry, 37, originally of Anthony, when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. He had more than 16 years of military service and received numerous awards throughout his military career.

My prayers are with the families of these service members. We will not forget their courage and sacrifice on our behalf.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) officials recently announced their proposal to close 11 offices in Kansas. Every closing is painful as each county office makes a significant contribution to the community where it is located. Farmers should have local access to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) services and representatives. Although I appreciate the lengthy and thorough process by which FSA determined its office consolidation plan, I oppose any plan that eliminates county FSA offices. The decision to pursue office

Capitol Views By Rep. Jerry Moran



consolidation was made by USDA, not by Congress. FSA is holding meetings in each location slated to be eliminated. Concerned residents should attend these meetings to express their opinions to FSA. Officials indicated a willingness to consider information that shows FSA should reconsider its decisions.

Each county meeting is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m.

- Barber County: March 13, Heritage Center, KAN 1056 SE Isabel Road, Medicine Lodge.
- Comanche County: March 14, South Central High School Gymnasium, 600 N. Leavenworth, Coldwater.
- Morton County: March 15, City Hall, 433 Morton, Elkhart.
- Gove County: March 16, Gove County Office Building, 520 Washington, Gove.
- Chase County: March 19, Chase County Community Building, Swope Park, Cottonwood Falls.

The Department of Energy announced this week that Abengoa Bioenergy Biomass of Kansas was selected for up to \$76 million in federal funding to build a cellulosic ethanol plant in Kansas. The Kansas plant — one of six projects selected nationwide — will produce 11.4 million gallons of ethanol annually. Cellulosic ethanol is an alternative fuel made from a wide variety of non-starch based plant materials. These materials

include perennial grasses and annual crop residues, such as corn stover, sorghum stover and wheat straw.

Last weekend, I presented Arnold Prather of Gove with the Purple Heart medal he earned while in the Army. Mr. Prather was wounded in action while serving in the Korean War in August 1951. It was my pleasure to present this long overdue medal to Mr. Prather with his friends and family in attendance. It is touching to join Kansas veterans for medal presentations when they have waited many years for something so deserved. I am grateful for their service to our country, but also for the continued roles they fulfill in our communities.

Last Friday, my daughter Kelsey and I attended the 148th Landon Lecture given by former President Bill Clinton. This prestigious lecture series at Kansas State University continues in honor of the late Alfred M. Landon, former Kansas governor and the 1936 Republican Party nominee for president of the United States. Recently, President George Bush and former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld delivered Landon lectures that I was able to attend. President Clinton talked about globalization, the need to embrace our equality and our differences, the importance of getting an education and the need for citizen civic action. Thank you to Dr. Charles Reagan and Edward Seaton for their work in organizing these events and bringing these prominent speakers to Kansas.

I continue to support a Goodland site for the new Veterans Affairs outreach clinic by joining Senators Brownback and Roberts in sharing our support.

Water plant contract could be awarded in May

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tion and submit documents to the State Revolving Fund by May 15. Mr. Miller said the contract could be awarded on May 16 and a pre-construction conference held in June. A notice to proceed could be posted in June and construction would be completed between June and November with the plant expected to be on-line by December.

Had the council not chosen the State Revolving Fund option, construction couldn’t have even begun until September with completion not until April 2008.

Those delays would have required special extensions and considerations plus the possibilities of fines because the city would not have been in compliance.

In other business the council: •Reported City tax receipts for February at \$25,750.38.

•Discussed board appointments to the Norton Manor Board.

•Discussed the city-wide cleanup.

•Learned city crews have started picking up broken limbs from the ice storms.

•Reappointed Rob Lawson to the Kansas Municipal Energy Association Board.

•Learned the city will replace curbs, gutters and sidewalks around the lot left by the downtown fire last July 24.

Mr. Lawson said the hole has been filled in with sand. Council reviewed an architectural drawing of a possible new building to be constructed on the site. The draw-

ing was submitted by Aaron Daniels, a senior at Norton Community High School. His design featured red brick construction with limestone trim on the windows.

•Learned city crews have been patching potholes in the streets.

•Discussed the issue of cats still running at large and enforcing leash laws.

•Discussed a new travel expense reimbursement policy for city employees.

•Learned Federal Emergency Management Agency has sent about \$4,000 to help the city with expenses suffered during the recent ice storms.

•Proposed the high school drafting class work on plans for new bathrooms at Elmwood park.

Frankie and Phyllis Valens

Appearing at the
Norton First United Methodist Church
 805 W. Wilberforce
 Norton, Kansas

**SUNDAY,
 MARCH 11
 7:00 P.M.
 FELLOWSHIP HALL**

For More Information
 Contact the Church Office

785-877-2196

Frankie and Phyllis Valens