

Op-ed

Talk about a fast food place

I was convinced there would not be a Fellowship Dinner after church on Sunday. I knew it was the second Sunday, which is the traditional potluck dinner day. But, we had just had a Fellowship Dinner the week before, prior to the annual meeting. Surely, I thought, we wouldn't have dinners two weeks in a row.

Jim kept trying to tell me there would be a dinner but, I blew him off. Imagine my consternation when I opened the church bulletin and, right there, in front of my nose, were the words "Fellowship Dinner - today". (I hate it when he's right).

I need to back-track here. I had forgotten the last two dinners and was feeling a horrible guilt. There was no way I could go to a third dinner empty-handed. I whispered to Jim that I was going to exit and prepare something. He whispered back, "I really like tuna-noodle casserole."

I hate to admit to my deceit but, I waited until the two and three year-olds were dismissed for their class. I rose from my seat and merged in with the teachers. Outside, I raced for the store where I quickly picked up noodles, peas, tuna, mushroom soup, cheese and sour cream.

Luckily, I knew I could prepare the dish in the kitchen at The Haven, the house we help operate for inmates' families when they come to visit someone in the local state

prison. Time was short but, I divided to conquer. This was going to be "Extreme Cooking". I flipped all four burners on the stove to "High" and set small pans of water on each one. In two minutes I had a large pan of boiling water. In went the noodles while I mixed the remaining ingredients. I even pre-heated two casserole pans in the oven. Ten minutes later the noodles were done. Once everything was mixed, I split it between the two pans.

With one eye on the clock and one eye on the oven, I knew that services would be dismissed in a matter of minutes. I estimated the amount of time it would take to assemble everyone, decide the eating order and actually begin serving.

It was going to be close so I "cranked" up the heat in the oven, too

Soon, bubbles appeared. Good enough for me. I sprinkled some shredded cheese on top and it was ready. Grab the hot pads, load up, get to the church, park, and slide the casserole onto the serving table. It was about mid-way through the serving. If anyone noticed, they were kind enough not to say anything.

And, after all that, Jim didn't eat any of it. His excuse: "My plate was already full."

That's okay. There was some

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



left to bring home and he's going to have leftovers until it's all gone.

-ob-

A young couple we know has made the commitment to keep the romance alive in their relationship. They planned a special "date night" and made all the preparations. Their big day came and the husband was checking the oil in the vehicle when his young daughter asked, "Daddy, are we going somewhere?"

He answered, "Mommy and Daddy are going on a date. You and your brother are staying with the babysitter."

"What's a date?" she asked. "Go ask your mother," he suggested.

Sister didn't ask her mom, instead she found her little brother. She said, "Mom and Dad are going on a date. What's a date?"

With an all-knowing attitude he answered, "Oh, I tried one. It's a dried fruit and I didn't like it."

I'll give him about 12 more years. At 16, I bet his answer will be very different.

(carolynp38@hotmail.com)

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



be fine? Of course not. But neither do I believe rhetoric such as the following Cheney comments promote peace, "protection of the United States from terrorists is a tough, mean, dirty, nasty business... These are evil people. And we're not going to win this fight by turning the other cheek."

We needn't have worried about warm fuzzies in the last administration. I hope Mr. Cheney is wrong and above all I hope Mr. Cheney hopes he's wrong. The ideal will be to provide physical and civil protection, a delicate balance and a challenge for our new president.

<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/>
(mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net)

I hope Mr. Cheney is wrong

Well, it is nice to know Dick Cheney has a voice. I'm only kidding. I liked it better when he was just a presence, well, I'm joking about that too. In an interview last week we see his true nature revealed and also an explanation as to why we went to war in Iraq.

Cheney said in the interview with Politico, "When we get people who are more concerned about reading the rights to an Al Qaeda terrorist than they are with protecting the United States..." I marvel at his use of the phrase "protecting the United States". To most of us protecting the U.S. involves more than just physical protection. By the very nature of being a democracy we are announcing our vulnerability. The freedoms we enjoy are the very threats we face.

We enjoy the ability to obtain a driver's license, check out a library book, watch TV, send emails. We enjoy the semi-privacy these things insure. Each time we get on a plane, drive a major

freeway, or walk out of our house for that matter, we take a risk. That is what freedom is about. It is running for a political office or signing your name to an editorial or a column. Freedom comes with a price.

Former VP Dick Cheney was announcing the vulnerability we face in part because of President Obama's order to close Guantanamo Prison. It is only a place; I would remind the former VP. It is the actions of officials who have made this a terrorist camp of its own. No one wants to release terrorists; however, many of these individuals have yet to stand trial and I would still maintain confessions attained through water boarding, forgive the pun, hold little water. Following the Army Field Manual for interrogation is the lawful thing to do. Complying by our own laws of bringing subjects to trial is the honorable thing to do.

Am I naïve enough to believe that if we all smile everything will

Need help with Daffodil Days

For the past 10 or more years, the American Cancer Society has marked the beginning of spring with Daffodil Days, coming to Norton in February or March. The society is looking for volunteers to assist in the packing, delivering and selling of the flowers. If you are interested in helping fight against cancer by volunteering, please contact the American Cancer Society at 202-0777.

"I have truly enjoyed volunteering for Daffodil Days. It is a great way to give back to the community

while helping the American Cancer Society raise money to help in its mission of eliminating cancer as a major health problem," said Sarah Durham, Daffodil Days volunteer. "At this time of the year, it is wonderful to be among so many flowers. It really does give you hope."

This year, Mrs. Durham is the Event Chair for the 2009 Relay for Life. She is serving as chairman of the Daffodil Days drive. Other volunteers include Ella Mae Schulze, Cynthia Glennemeier,

Lynn Nelson, Beverly Kindler, Lila Atwell, Karen Glenn, Bev Wilken and Mary Gnagy.

There is a need for more volunteers if anyone else can assist this year. Residents can place their orders for daffodils as early as Feb. 23. Bunches of 10 flowers cost \$10, the Sunshine Bouquet costs \$15 and the Bear and Bunch costs \$25. The Cancer Society provides information 24 hours a day, seven days a week through its toll-free number, 800-272-2345, and its website, www.cancer.org.

Show Your Love with Singing Balloons and Singing Plush

Sweet Deals for Your Sweetheart

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ONE OF OUR THREE SPECIALS

- Package of Love • Love Bouquet
- Sweetheart Vase

10% Discount on Thursday and Friday Delivery

Order Your Snowball Corsages and Boutonnieres

Here to serve you . . . very long lasting flowers, friendly faces, great selection and satisfaction guaranteed!

Norton Flowers, Gifts and Greenhouse
209 N. Kansas, Norton, Kansas ~ Phone 785-877-3345

Open
Saturday,
February 14
9 a.m. -
4 p.m.

Academic teams

(Continued from Page 1)
delighted with all five teams' performances.

"I feel that the success of the academic teams is direct reflection of the EXCELLENT teachers we have here in Norton, grades kindergarten to 12," said Mrs. Sebelius. "Also, all of our administrators are extremely supportive of all the academic teams!"

Norton school district superintendent Greg Mann is also proud of the students' achievements.

"The Norton Schools have a deep and wide tradition of high achievement in ALL areas of academic performance. National tests

such as the ACT, Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test and Scholastic Aptitude Test, state assessment tests and academic competitions," said Mr. Mann. "Mrs. Sebelius does an excellent job getting our academic teams, at all levels, organized and ready for competition. Our teachers are, obviously, doing a very good job in the classroom and certainly our brightest students are among the brightest to be found anywhere."

Superintendent Mann also noted that the high school Scholars' Bowl teams have brought home trophies from the state competition in the past — they won second place in the 4A tournament in 2002 and placed third in the 3A competition in 2003, and were the only public school out of three others that made the final four.

Members of the fifth grade Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl team are Philip Boutwell, Shelby Mulford, Lauren Mordecai, Valerie Rostek, Rachel Jones, Hailey Branek,

Audrie Burge, Cameron Heikes, Adriana Ankenman and Kirsten Georson.

The sixth grade Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl team members are Steve Cummings, Tyler Kuhn, Tommy Hanes, Molly Scott, Christian Boser, Chris Reynolds, Conor Cox, Neysa Carlson, Nic Koch and Kenzie Esslinger.

Seventh grade Scholars' Bowl team members are Leif Carlson, Marisa Maddy, Johnnye Ruder, Hannah Pollock, Bailey Ambrosier and Katelyn Engelbert.

The eighth grade Scholars' Bowl team members are Rachel Slipke, Ruth Kendell, Wyatt Wentz, Juliana Miller and Kayleigh Norwood.

The high school Scholars' Bowl team that competed in Phillipsburg included Phillip Becker, Matt Miller, Emily Scott, Cody Cook and Jake Romey. The Scholars' Bowl team will head to the state competition on Saturday at Belle Plaine.

Arrest

(Continued from Page 1)
His bond has been set for \$2,500. Hale remains in the county jail. His arraignment is scheduled for Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at the county courthouse.

Severe Weather Awareness Week

The annual Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Weeks safety campaign is nearing. National Weather Service offices serving the State of Kansas, in cooperation with emergency management officials, have designated the week of March 9 through 13, as Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week.

During the week, weather hazards and safety information will be discussed each day and disseminated on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All-Hazards, sent to all media outlets and displayed on our web page. The highlight of the week is the tornado drill, when National Weather Service offices serving the state issue a test tornado warning through normal communication channels. The test warning this year will take place Tuesday, March 10 at 1:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time and will air on all radio and television broadcast stations as well as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Radio All-Hazards. Everyone is encouraged to treat the test warning as if it were an actual emergency and review preparedness procedures. Municipalities throughout the state are encouraged to sound their tornado sirens at that time, according to the National Weather Service.

Storm spotter training classes in the Tri-State area will begin on March 3 and wrap up on March 31. The classes are open to people of all ages who have an interest in learning more about High Plains' storms, weather safety or storm spotting.

One class will be held in each county during a weekday evening between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. This year, all spotter classes will combine basic and advanced topics, with basic spotter and safety information during the first half of the class, while more advanced topics are presented in the second half.

Classes in Norton will be on March 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the basement of Prairie Land Electric, West Highway 36.

For more information, contact David Floyd, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at 785-899-6412 or through email at david.l.floyd@noaa.gov.

Circle
March
9-13

Norton
classes
March 17

Telegram
subscription
line:
877-3361

"For An Auction Advantage"
McEWEN AUCTION

OWNER — DUANE R. McEWEN — AUCTIONEER

• Full-Time Auction Company
 • All Types of Sales • Reliable Auction Crew
 • Computerized Bidding and Checkout
 E. Hwy. 36, 601 E. Holme, Norton, KS - 877-3032

Sweetheart Deals . . . Under Twenty Bucks

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| LG Swift AX 500 Now \$19.99 After \$50 Mail in Rebate | LG Scoop AX 260 Now \$9.99 After \$50 Mail in Rebate | LG AX 300 Free After \$30 Mail in Rebate |
|---|--|---|

Kellie's Inc. Elltel wireless authorized agent

HILL CITY, 101 E. MAIN - PHONE 785-421-6245
 NORTON, 107 E. MAIN - PHONE 785-874-4718
 STOCKTON, 201 S. CEDAR - PHONE 785-425-6333

For terms and conditions, see: www.alltel.com/terms.html