

# Opinion

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

## 'Christian Right' has gotten the whole issue backward

To the Editor,  
I'd like to comment on "Intelligent design not necessary," a letter to the editor by Tim Peterson in which he said, "Intelligent design is an unnecessary stumbling block that undermines the spread of Christianity." I'd like to "amen" this declaration and add the following.

I think the "Christian Right" has gotten it all backward. And that coming from someone who considered herself a part of that "Christian Right," "American Christian" or rather, "Christian American" all her life. In the Twin Cities I was an active Republican (the "Christian" party you know!), marched on the state capital steps against abortion, carried my pro-life sign, engaged the "enemy" vocally (the liberals of course), attended conventions, etc.

As a homeschool Christian mom, I was taught to teach that our country was a "Christian" country and that it was the job of believers to confront the culture to return back to its Christian roots. Much of Christian homeschool history texts teach the "providential history" perspective.

I was a Rush Limbaugh, FOX News, Cal Thomas, James Kennedy, Jerry Falwell follower for years as they touted American Christianity as THE objective of the believer.

I've spent the last several years 'waking up.' I now realize that this

is not what Jesus Christ called us to do, nor did the Apostles. They did not prioritize their efforts to change the culture through political activism, but rather confronted the culture with the testimony of Jesus Christ and the example they themselves were to the world. The believers' greatest life changing statement they can give the world is their own Christlike character. Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against every spiritual power that exalts itself against Christ.

From an editorial piece dated July 2005 in *Christianity Today*, *Worship As Higher Politics*, "George W. Bush is not Lord. The Declaration of Independence is not an infallible guide to Christian faith and practice. Nor is the U.S. Constitution, nor the U.N. Universal Declaration on Human Rights. 'Original intent' of America's founders is not the hermeneutical key that will guarantee national righteousness. The American flag is not the Cross. The Pledge of Allegiance is not the Creed. 'God Bless America' is not the Doxology. Sometimes one needs to state the obvious, especially at times when it's less and less obvious."

I couldn't have said it better myself.

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## God's Pantry helped by kindergarten

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

It's been 100 days since school began at Northern Valley schools and the kindergartners, first and second graders celebrated by giving 100 grocery items to God's Pantry food bank in Norton.

The kindergarten class, especially, had made a study of "100". Their teacher, Mr. Thompson said their study included 100 physical exercises; estimating how long it would take 100 ice cubes to melt (3 1/2 hours); cutting out 100 fish for the bulletin board; and 100 book titles.

Elaine Mann, representing the food bank, accepted the items and thanked each child for sharing. Mrs. Mann explained how the program helped people who were less fortunate.

Elexsa Anderson, 8, said of the food pantry, "When people are out



Elaine Mann, representing God's Pantry food bank in Norton, explains the program to kindergartners, first and second graders at Northern Valley Elementary School.

of money, it can help."  
Eli Lowry, also 8, said, "It makes

me feel good to help others."  
To learn how you can help

God's Pantry, call Mrs. Mann at 877-2019.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### NORTON Senior High

Monday — Jay Singers, a.p.; FFA Northwest District Leadership at Stockton, 4 p.m.; Kay Board, 7 p.m.

Tuesday — Senior Class Announcements, Cafeteria, 2:15 p.m.; Junior Varsity and Varsity Basketball at Oberlin, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; FCCLA District Elections at Goodland, 9 a.m.

Thursday — FFA, a.p.; FCCLA, a.p.; Junior Varsity and Varsity Wrestling vs. Hill City/Osborne at Osborne, 5 p.m.; FFA Pals Party, Cafeteria, 7 p.m.

Friday — Jazz, a.p.; Junior Varsity and Varsity Basketball at Plainville, 5 p.m.

Saturday — ACT Test Date; State Scholar Bowl at Rossville; Forensics, Here, 7:30 a.m.; FFA District Meats Judging at Kensington, 9 a.m.; Junior Varsity Wrestling at Colby, 9 a.m.; SAC Snowball Dance, Junior Varsity Gym, 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Sunday — Winter Band Concert, Memorial Gym, 2:30 p.m.

February 12-18 FCCLA Week  
Next Monday — Jay Singers, a.p.; Grade 11 State Writing Assessments; FCCLA Board, 7 p.m.

### Junior High:

Monday — Stuco, a.p.

Wednesday — Faculty Meeting, 7:45 a.m.

Thursday — Wrestling vs. Plainville and Smith Center, Here, 4:30 p.m.

### Eisenhower:

Wednesday — SIT, 7:30 a.m.

Thursday — IEP Day; Grade 3 and 4 Level Meeting, 3:40 p.m.; Little Girls Dance Camp, Eisenhower Gym, 3:45-5 p.m.

Friday — Little Girls Dance Camp, Eisenhower Gym, 3:45-5 p.m.

Next Monday — Kindergarten Valentine Parties, 2:30 p.m.; Little Girls Dance Camp, Eisenhower Gym, 3:45-5 p.m.

### All Schools:

Tuesday — Teacher Inservice, No School

Wednesday — Administrator Meeting, Alice Tweed Center, 9:30 a.m.; Progress Reports Go Home

Next Monday — Board of Education Meeting, Alice Tweed Center, 7:30 p.m.

### High School Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Biscuit

## Animal ID will be focus of meetings

(Continued from Page 1)

• Feb. 13, 10 a.m. — Norton County 4-H Building, 877-5755

• Feb. 14, 9 a.m. — Osborne Livestock Auction, 785-346-2521

• Feb. 14, 3 p.m. — Sheridan County 4-H Building, Hoxie 785-675-3268

• Feb. 15, 9 a.m. — Ellsworth Golf Course, Ellsworth 785-472-4442

A pre-registration fee of \$10 is requested by Feb. 6 to reserve a meal and materials. Registration will be accepted late with no guarantee of meal or materials. The Hoxie location will have no meal or registration fee, but does require pre-registration.

## 'Improving End of Life Care: Why Has It Been So Difficult?'

A Summary of a Special Report Produced for Hastings Center

The public spectacle unleashed over the medical treatment of Terri Schiavo exposed a serious divide in the way the American people currently view end of life care. Despite 30 years of litigation, laws, and efforts by a range of groups to improve treatment for those near death, too many Americans still receive poor care at life's end and are dying "bad" deaths without adequate palliative care or dignity.

Further progress in improving care for those near the end of life will not hinge on the enactment of new laws or implementation of new regulations. If anything, end of life reform has been excessively driven by law. And current laws do not need to be abandoned. These laws will work if allowed to, says a new report from The Hastings Center, "Improving End of Life Care: Why Has It Been So Difficult?"

What is needed, according to the report, is a new paradigm for improving end of life decision-making and care delivery that puts less emphasis on the specific medical decisions concerning the individual dying patient and, instead, fosters shared decision-making and communication among patients and loved ones. This new collective approach toward end of life care decision-making embraces the reality that people die as they live — in a web of complex relationships.

The argument is that care for dying people would greatly improve under a system that considers the values and needs of patients, but also focuses on strengthening the ability of families and providers to be more effective decision-makers, especially for people, like the late Ms. Schiavo, who have lost the capacity to decide for themselves. In the future, the emphasis should be on promoting a system of care that offers much better coordination of services, treatment planning, and continuity of care and that sets parameters for better family dynamics and decision-making around end of life care issues.

Despite persistent problems, there has been significant progress made in end of life care over the past 25-30 years. The report notes that today people have much more control of their medical care at the end of life. Palliative care is embraced and recognized as a medical specialty. About half of those

## Hospice Services of Northwest Kansas

who die each year receive hospice services for at least a brief period before death. Today, many people die without suffering unnecessary pain and are surrounded by friends and family in a setting that addresses their spiritual, emotional and physical needs.

But this progress, and the individual rights upon which it is based, are in jeopardy. The political support for a framework of principles for end of life care decision-making built by the courts, the legislatures, and among providers and ethicists has not been universally embraced, and in fact is eroding. The authors call for a reexamination of assumptions linked with end of life care about autonomy, quality of life, trust, family dynamics, and the motivations of professionals and lay people.

Most people would rather not stare death in the face, especially their own death. Even those with life-limiting illnesses resist enrolling in hospice programs until very late in the game because it feels like they are relinquishing hope. Despite efforts to raise public awareness, only a small number of Americans have chosen to execute advance directives. And many of those that have done so have failed to provide their health proxy or family with enough clarity about their wishes or values to offer guidance.

Although death is inevitable, dying badly is not. For end of life care to improve, there will need to be a steady investment in public education campaigns that engage communities and spur discussions at the family dinner table and within health care institutions about how to build an effective system of care that recognizes the broad social network that most people connect to. It is clear that the system of decision-making and care delivery near the end of life needs to be redesigned. Over the next years, the debate will need to shift away from a focus on process and procedures to a more serious and frank discussion about what to decide, not just how to do it.

cooked eggs, toast, apple juice, milk; Lunch: Cavatini, tossed salad, mandarin oranges, garlic bread, milk

### NORTHERN VALLEY

Sunday — East Coast Trip Meeting at Phillipsburg High School, 3 p.m.

Monday — Jr. High Basketball GNEC Tournament at Logan; NW District Leadership Conference at Stockton, 4 p.m.

Tuesday — High School Basketball at Arapahoe, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday — High School Academic Contest at Palco, 12:30 p.m.

Thursday — Junior High GNEC Basketball Tournament at Logan; KSDE ITV Updates at Fort Hays State University in Hays, 1-4 p.m.

Friday — High School Basketball at Palco, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday — High School Forensics meet at Norton, 8 a.m.

### Breakfast/Lunch Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: rolled-up sausage link, tater tots, orange juice, milk; Lunch: chicken fry, whipped potatoes, gravy, green beans, dinner roll, fruit cocktail, milk

Tuesday — No School

Wednesday — Breakfast: Homemade pancakes, bacon strips, apple juice milk; Lunch: Western bean bake, cheese stic, corn, Jell-O with pears, cornbread, milk

Thursday — Breakfast: Blueberry muffin, peaches, milk; Lunch: hamburger gravy, whipped potatoes, peas, peaches, peanut butter twist, milk

Friday — Breakfast: Hard

**NORTON CARES**

**Potato Bar Fund Raiser**  
**Saturday, Feb. 11 — 5-7 p.m.**

WILL BE HELD AT THE  
**Norton Senior Center**

The evening will be funded by free-will donations. We invite you to join us in saying THANK YOU to our CARES Volunteers

## Bulletin Board

### Business and Professional Directory

Your Guide to Services Available in Northwest Kansas

<p><b>Auto Service Repair</b></p> <p><b>Problem Solved!</b></p> <p><b>Complete Computer Diagnosis</b></p> <p>CAREFUL ATTENTION SETS OUR SERVICE SHOP APART FROM OTHERS</p> <p>~Tune-ups ~Air Conditioner ~Brakes ~Exhaust System ~Shocks ~Radiator Repair</p> <p><b>WALTER MOTOR COMPANY</b> NORTON—1-800-479-3112 (877-3112)</p>	<p><b>Limousine Service</b></p> <p><i>Affordable Classic Limousines and Car Service</i></p> <p>Pick-up and Delivery Services Available</p> <p><i>•Weddings •Business •Proms •Special Events •Night on the Town, or Errands — Special Attention for Your Special Day</i></p> <p>(785) 202-0952 Norton, KS, 67654 Services Available 24-Hours/Day</p>	<p><b>Construction</b></p> <p><b>OVERLEASE CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p><b>785-877-2115</b></p> <p>410 South Street</p> <p><small>*Remodeling •Additions •Custom Cabinets Call Greg Overlease for all your carpentry needs</small></p>
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