

Here's a group that needs a salute

Something we just naturally take for granted occurred in Norton on Monday of this week, and it deserves mention. That something happens to be the people who man the machines that remove the snow from the streets.

As the storm that left up to 13 inches of snow — depending on your location in town — started winding down, the rumbling of machinery could be felt and heard as the assault began on the streets. And it continued into the night. And early the next morning it was still going on.

It was comforting to know that we would be able to carry on with our routines in a safer manner when we got out of bed Tuesday morning.

Yes, the snow plows might have covered driveway entrances that were cleared, but we all know that is going to happen. That inconvenience isn't an inconvenience at all. We'll simply refer to it as a "speed bump" on the road to recovery.

On another note, snows such as the one we received, can also come under the umbrella of economic development. "Sure," you say, "how?" It provides jobs, seasonal, maybe, but jobs nonetheless.

Did you notice the many youngsters with snow shovels banging on doors to make a few dollars? Or others who have established clients who count on them to do the digging when the digging becomes necessary?

And most importantly, isn't precipitation the thing we've been yelling for? "Boy, we could sure use some rain (or snow)." How often has that been mentioned? And echoed?

Congressman Jerry Moran said it best when he called it, "A million dollar snow!"

And it goes without saying that you probably took note of the beauty the snowfall created. The landscape went from that of slowly emerging life to something that would sell for top dollar on a painter's canvas.

So, Mother Nature did her part. And if you are a believer you can rest assured that your prayers were answered. If not, the moisture still came and you are appreciative of that fact.

Good start for the week.

— Tom Dreiling

Thumbs Up to...

✓Deena W., Mike W., Dale C. and crew for setting up the soccer goals and fields. It is Norton's invitation for rain or snow. (e-mail)

✓John Baker, on being selected as recipient of the Volunteer Award.

✓Norton County 4-H Shooting Sports team, on your exceptional showing at the March 11 Hays Regional Meet. (e-mail)

✓Noreen (Kaus) Crabill, on your 80th birthday.

✓Snow removal crews, for a job well done!

✓Clara Shewey, on your 80th birthday.

✓Norton County Arts Council, on your Saturday evening "Motown Mania" program.

✓Lisa Marie Henderson, on your birthday today.

✓Heath Vincent, Kaitlyn Noone, Heather Boys, Megan Clements, Valerie Jackson, Austin Brooks, Sarah McDiffett, Devon Marx, all recipients of Dane G. Hansen Foundation scholarships.

(To submit a name or names for consideration, please e-mail tom@nwkansas.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, or drop by the office or mail The Telegram, 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654. I have relaxed the birthday and anniversary requirements, due to a number of requests. So, have at it. Thanks for you input. — tom.)

Share your thoughts with a Letter to the Telegram editor

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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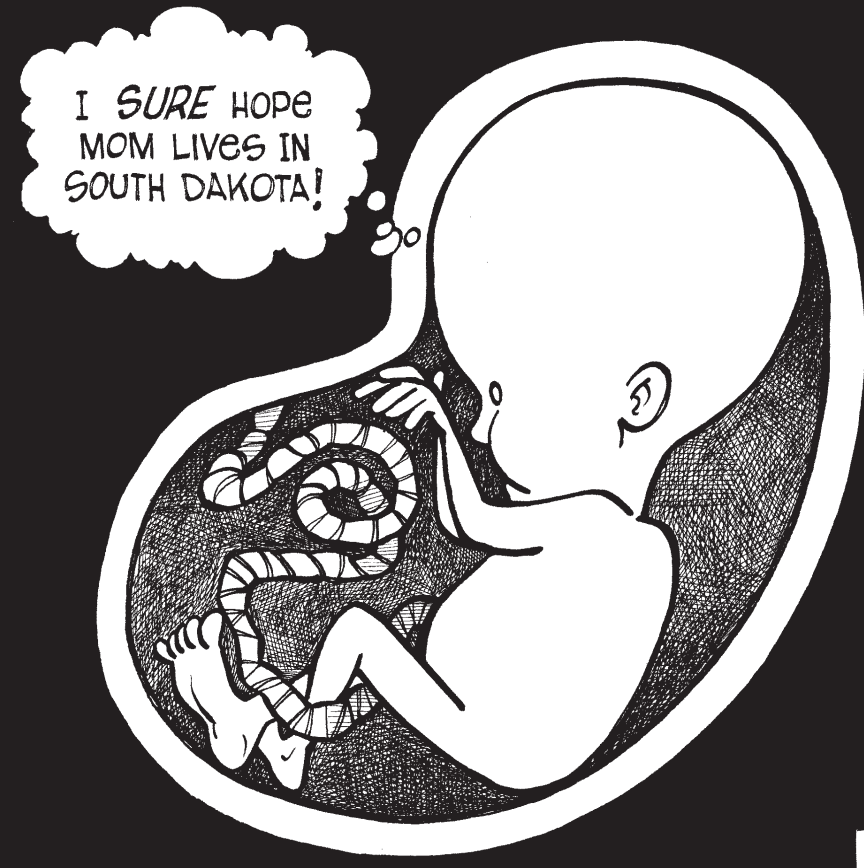
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I SURE HOPE MOM LIVES IN SOUTH DAKOTA!

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THE RAPID CITY JOURNAL

Your answers were very interesting

So, how does the guy get back to his house evenings? If you recall, in a column last week I was talking about the TV commercial that shows this guy leaving his house and a few feet from the front porch he dives off a cliff and seconds later a parachute opens and he lands hundreds of feet below right next to his new SUV. How do you think he gets back to his house evenings? Let me know, the answers could be fun.

Well, it was fun. Here are the answers received so far (all by e-mail):

✓The guy takes an airplane back home each evening and jumps out directly over his property.

✓It's nothing but a television commercial, so who cares how he gets home, or even if he gets home.

✓When he leaves his office, he drives his SUV back to the spot where it sits awaiting his landing each morning, and then he takes an all-terrain vehicle, which he also owns but is not in the picture, and drives up the side of the mountain. Simple!

✓Is that gal he kisses good-bye really his wife? If not, his escape via parachute makes sense.

✓It's important to know in which mountainous state he lives. If it's Montana it makes sense. If it's Wyoming, well...you know all about that movie about two cowboys.

✓What we are trying to figure out is why anybody in their right mind would build a house on the edge of a cliff on a mountain side to begin with.

✓It would help to know if he was a Democrat!

Good Evening Norton

Tom Dreiling



✓In addition to being just a TV ad, it was stupid.

✓Do people actually get paid for coming up with advertising ideas like that?

✓I think he probably visits his favorite bar after leaving the office, stays too long, and doesn't remember how he got back home.

✓He can have that SUV, I'm a pick up guy!

Not a bad response. Funny how people see commercials. Thanks to those who replied. I might mention that a couple of people submitted nearly identical answers, so I opted to use just one (I am referring to the first answer).

I wonder if Mt. Sunflower in Wallace County got enough snow on Monday to warrant opening their ski slopes?

Sign in a podiatrist's office: "Time wounds all heels."

Sign at a tire shop in Milwaukee: "Invite us to your next blowout."

Sign at a towing company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

Sign on a maternity room door: "Push. Push. Push."

Sign on an electrician's truck: "Let us

remove your shorts."

Sign at an optometrist's office: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

Sign on a fence: "Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive."

Sign outside a muffler shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

Sign in a veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

Sign at the electric company: "We would be happy if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be delighted."

Sign in a restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry, Come on in and get fed up."

Don't forget that the Wichita State University varsity basketball guys take on George Mason University in the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Tournament Friday evening (CBS). George Mason beat the Shocks by 3 points in February. That should set up a thrilling rematch. The state of Kansas has turned to Shocker gold and black in a big way.

Wichita State and George Mason are mid major sensations so far in this year's March Madness. I believe they both have what it takes to show up in the Final Four. Too bad one will fall by the wayside Friday night. Go Shocks!

Time to put this column to bed, so...

Have a good evening, a good weekend, and don't forget to pencil in church in your Sunday plans.

They need to listen to you and me

I was glad to hear President Bush report at a news conference on Monday his strategy in the war in Iraq is working.* As we "celebrate" the third year anniversary of this war with continued loss of life and frequent Iraqi civil disturbances sometimes I need someone to interpret the happenings.

There has been recent talk about President Bush and his determination to stay the course. I am comforted knowing he doesn't make his decisions based on polls, however when your approval rating is 33 percent or less, a healthy examination of one's actions might be in order.

I have always thought the definition of a knowledgeable person was one who constantly and consistently examined the issues at hand and re-navigated if it became necessary. For instance, if you

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



waged a war based on information of the existence of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) only to learn there was no evidence, maybe it was time to reevaluate and assess the new information. I don't find it admirable to continue on the same path because our president makes up his mind.

When the port issue came front and center, the people rose to the occasion and stated their objections and Congress lis-

tened. How surprised were the constituents their elected representatives paid attention? A CNN poll showed 95 percent were shocked Congress actually heard their concerns.

Our president was forced to listen, even after his veto threatening.

Although sticking to one's guns can be admirable, I'm not sure it is a trait we long for in elected officials. They are our employees and with that comes the responsibility to probe and learn and listen to those who employ them.

No, I'm not advocating changing direction merely because of one sinking poll, but I do believe our officials owe it to us to listen not with a deaf ear, but in the interest of making informed decisions.

*http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11924526/

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Social workers deserve your support and your thanks

To the Editor,
For the last 108 years, social workers have been improving the lives of people affected by poverty, discrimination, abuse, addiction, unemployment, disabilities and mental illness. Social workers have helped build caring organizations that make a difference. They have brought the light of hope to those suffering from social injustices and have brought dignity and respect to the most disadvantaged in our society.
March is the month when we celebrate

the achievements of all those who labor in the social work field. This year they will be recognized by the theme, "Life's Journey. Help Starts Here." As a Licensed Social Worker and Vice President of The Saint Francis Academy, which currently employs more than 100 social workers, I am honored to be a part of this significant profession. I celebrate every day the difference social workers make in the lives of children and families.
Please join me in recognizing and applauding those who work in this profes-

sion and who have given their lives to make a difference in the lives of others. If you know a social worker, offer them thanks and a warm hug. If you need help, please seek out a social worker.

"Life's Journey. Help Starts Here," is a message of hope for everyone, thanks to the dedication of caring social workers.

Sincerely,
Sharon Ringer
Vice President
Saint Francis Academy, Inc.