

Time to put your thinking cap on

If you were asked to come up with something to promote Norton or Norton County, what would you suggest? The reason we ask that question is because we have many opportunities to visit with people from other areas of our state, and when we tell them we are from Norton, they will invariably say one of two things:

- 1) "Oh, you live up there by that big reservoir."
 - 2) "How big is that prison (correctional facility)?"
- And they might even mention Valley Hope. All three are credible and very important to our existence. So, we will rule them out of your suggestions(s). What else is there that would elicit curiosity, or tease the mind? What would you pitch to friends who live many miles from here and might entertain the thought of spending a weekend in Norton?

Think!
It can't be run-of-the-mill stuff that all communities basically our size have. It needs to be different. Something they will tell their friends about when they get back to their home, like, "Wow, you ought to see that (plug in your suggestion) at Norton. That's something else."

E-mail your suggestion or suggestions to tom@dwnkansas.com, fax to 877-3732, slip a note in the mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654 or drop your suggestion(s) by the office.

It could end up being a test of our knowledge of the place we call home. It could turn out to be fun. It could bring into the spotlight something we've overlooked.

The Telegram would like to begin compiling a list of the suggestions and then on down the line begin publishing them. Who knows what this challenge will bring.

A made for community dialogue.

—Tom Dreiling

Thumbs Up to . . .

√**Amanda Antrim, Annette Becker, Nathan Broeckelman, Kayleigh Brooks, Jared Engelbert, Morgan Kauten, Hannah Mills, Nathan Morse, Gena Myers, Maggie Nielsen, Nathan Pollock, Amie Richard, Mathew Shepard, Jessica Sprigg, Blake Van Eaton**, on your induction into the Norton Chapter of the National Honor Society.

√**The city crews** for the hard work in the recent power outage, their work in less than ideal conditions got the power back on soon. (via regular mail)

√**Norton BB Gun Team**, great kids and great coaches. (e-mail)

√**Coach Erin Hill** and your Norton Community High School forensics team on your exceptional results.

√**Lenora**, on the groundbreaking for your new community center. (called in).

√**Norton City Council** members, for your hard work and get little but grousing in return. If you aren't willing to serve, then don't grumble. (e-mail)

√**Phil Lesh**, for receiving the *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Prairie Statesmen barbershop chorus.

√**Luke Pfannenstiel** and **Naomi Streck**, on your selection as King and Queen of the Norton Community High School prom.

√**Busy Beavers 4-H Club**, for the deee-licious goodie basket you presented to the staff at *The Norton Telegram*.

√**Brian and Amanda Shannon** for stepping up and taking over the coachless U6 soccer team, giving our kids someone to call "coach." (via regular mail)

√**Kelly Brown**, for helping to change a tire.

√**You from me**, for the growing interest in this column. Keep up the good work. — Tom

(To submit a name or names, please e-mail tom@dwnkansas.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732 or drop by the office at 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton. Thanks for your input. —tomd)



Answer to question is quite simple

I'm going to climb up on my soap box for a minute here. Recently a woman was unhappy with a decision made by a board and after the meeting she asked, "Don't we have any say in how this city's run?"

My answer to that question is yes, you do. The problem is it seems not very many people want to take an active part in running the city, county, school, etc.

So, here's my questions to everyone who doesn't like the decisions made by our elected officials and board members.

Where were you when it was time to run for election?

Where were you when applications for board positions were being taken?

Where were you, all except 70 of you in Norton, on election Tuesday?

Where are you when the city council, county commission, school board, hospital board and all the other boards and committees that have to do with running this city and county meet?

Think about it. Take an active part in local government instead of complaining when they do something you don't like.

—nn—

On a completely different note, who decided to change the way car jacks were made?

Night Noise Veronica Monier



Earlier this week, a friend and I decided to get out and take a drive around the lake. Everything was great while we were on the paved roads. But then, we hit the Dam Road and things started going wrong.

So, here's what happened...

We're driving with the windows down, enjoying the nice weather when all of a sudden, I hear this hissing noise.

I pull over and check it out and, as my luck would have it, my tire is leaking air like a water sieve. Two minutes and it was flat.

My friend said, "You better call somebody."

Call someone indeed.

"I can change a tire," I said.

After a little searching, we managed to find everything we needed to take care of the tire. A little more effort got the spare out from underneath my vehicle and then came the fun part — finding where to put

the jack.

These new jacks have very specific places where they can go. If you put it in the wrong place, you have to start over. Thankfully, we wedged it in the right place and didn't have to do it over again.

Next step, jack up the vehicle. It was definitely not as easy as it sounded, not with the new jack anyway. This jack (and I seriously doubt the person who came up with the new design ever had to jack up a car/truck/etc. with this jack) has a knob that has to be turned by inserting the plastic tip of the lug wrench into the little square hole. It's not the easy crank kind.

My friend and I took turns laying on the gravel, making the increasingly difficult quarter inch turns of the wrench. All-in-all, it took us longer to jack up the vehicle than it did to get the flat, let down the spare, untighten the bolts, take the tire off, put the new tire on, tighten the bolts, and drive away again.

My friend said she was going to start writing a column called "Adventures with Veronica" and send it to my boss. She thinks he'd get a kick out of it.

Come to think of it, he probably would.

(Boss note: If only there was someone around to sneak a picture or two of this road show.)

Concert was nice... and it was loud

The middle daughter; sweet, thoughtful child that she is, inquired, "I want to get you and Aunt Sue concert tickets for Mother's Day. Would you rather see 'Chicago' or Anne Murray?"

Aunt Sue gets included in Mother's Day because she lives in Wichita, and was the substitute mom during Elizabeth's college years at Wichita State.

I did not even think. "I want to see 'Chicago', because I have seen Anne Murray." "That's what Aunt Sue said," Elizabeth said.

Then I said, "Besides, when was the last time Anne Murray had a hit?"

There was a pause then Elizabeth asked, "Mom, when was the last time 'Chicago' had a hit?"

As I thought of it, I could not even remember what hits they had. Maybe I had them confused with "Blood, Sweat and Tears".

I asked my friend, Jody. She said they sang "25 or 6 to 4". I remember that! Lots of brass, great instruments.

Although this was a Mother's Day present the concert was in early April. It started at 9:30. I found myself hoping that was a.m. It wasn't.

The night of the concert came. It did not start until 10 p.m.. And, they started slow. But, I remembered the music. "Colour My World". "Saturday in the Park".

They sang a new song "Feel" from their new album. It was currently climbing the charts. Ha! When was the last time Chicago had a hit — 2006.

Back Home Nancy Hagman



About halfway through, the band took a break of sorts, switching to acoustic guitars with only two or three of the guys on stage at a time. The drummer played a great "mouth harp" solo.

Then they really started on the oldies. It was everything you could want in a rock concert, including LOUD.

There are eight guys in the band, when they got started (39 years ago) there were only seven. I believe four have been with the band from the beginning. Chicago has been working, touring and recording consistently for 39 years. The level of talent in the group was quite astounding.

The *Wichita Eagle* reviewed the concert the next day. The writer started by saying that despite the new album which is titled "Chicago XXX", the group was very clean-cut and the music sweet.

If I was going to review a group for the *Wichita Eagle* I do believe I would do a little research.

During the act, one of the band members referred to the album as "Chicago Thirty." You see the Xs are Roman Numerals. Chicago always titled their al-

bums by whatever number they were. This is their 30th album. It is not "Chicago Triple X", as in X-rated.

I looked it up online. It is not hard. Go to search and type in "Chicago the band." Their web page will come right up. It explains about the whole album name thing. (Sorry to digress but you know how hard it is for me to tolerate fools.)

But the group is clean cut. No ripped jeans, long hair, grungy looks. In fact they looked pretty good for a bunch of mostly 60-year olds. (Keep in mind we were a long way from the stage.) Their music does seem to reflect more innocent times. Who would have ever thought we would think that about the 60s?

Much of the lyrics were overpowered by the horns (translation: LOUD). This did not bother us old-timers because we remember the words anyway. But it was a problem for the new songs — I have no idea what "Feel" is all about.

The band left the stage without playing "24 or 6 to 4". But, we got them back for an encore and they played it. It was really, really LOUD!

My ears were way past ringing. They still hurt the next day.

Chicago will be touring with Huey Lewis and the News this summer. Hmmmm, now what did Huey Lewis sing? I bet Jody knows.

Chicago and Huey Lewis will be at the Red Rocks Amphitheater on June 20. I enjoyed the concert I attended but I think I'd like an outdoor event even more. Maybe it would not be so LOUD.

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