

When we give thanks, your name surfaces

Yes, we are thankful for family, friends and all the good that has happened to us during the year. And Thursday we will pause to remember those people, those events.

We will also remember our young people in uniform carrying out their responsibilities all over the globe. They make these holidays possible and special.

But we will not stop there. There are a few thousand other people we want to thank. And you are among them. YOU are the reason WE are.

Those few thousand other people are those who subscribe to and advertise in *The Norton Telegram*, and those who buy the paper from vendors. Doing so makes you a part of our newspaper family.

There is an unusual bond established with advertisers and readers. And looking back that bond has survived the challenges of time, in our case 99 years. Yes, this newspaper has been a part of this community for nearly a century. Your *Telegram* is among the oldest newspapers in all of western Kansas and among the oldest continuing businesses in the community.

It would be nice to be able to publish a complete list of everybody who makes *The Telegram* their newspaper. It would be an awesome roster.

We will be taking the holiday off, as will the majority of our population. However, there will be those among us who will be on duty, who work in environments that know no holiday, such as emergency medical people, law enforcement, hospital personnel, among others.

Enjoy Thanksgiving. Be careful. And if you are traveling, drive smart. Check the weather before heading out and recheck before returning. And make sure your vehicle has the supplies necessary to see you through should you become stranded out in the open.

—Tom Dreiling

It's all about being thankful

Happy Thanksgiving! When you think about the many things you are thankful for, the list is almost unlimited, isn't it? If you have not made that list lately, you might consider doing that this week. I am thankful for my wonderful family and I'm sure you have family that you are very proud of, or maybe you have someone other than family for which you are thankful.

I recently had the opportunity to spend time in Kansas City where my granddaughter from Wichita was participating in a soccer tournament. She is the goalie for the team, and they played five games in two days to win the tournament.

It is fun to watch those girls who have to be in great physical condition to play 80-minute games with very few substitutions and to play five games in those two days. But even more important is to be proud of who they are as individuals.

-sm-

The Norton Veterans Day parade is also an inspiration to me. I get very teary eyed every time I sing or hear the Star Spangled Banner, or see the American flag, and the veterans who march in this

Memories Sonya Montgomery



parade especially tear at my emotions.. It makes me proud to be an American, and I always wonder if the majority of people even have a clue what sacrifices have been made for us to enjoy our lives.

Let us give thanks to those veterans, and the people who help with and participate in the parade each and every year.

-sm-

I pray you will join me during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season in praying for our leaders and our soldiers who serve our country to make sure we continue to have a wonderful America. Also, give thanks to God, and as a very famous person once said, "Pray not that God is on our side, but that we are on God's side."

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Oh, yes! Happy days are here again

I'm a simple girl (which is not the same as simple-minded). Still, it doesn't take much to make me happy. Right now, I am just tickled pink. Or, as Jim would say, "Pickled tink." For the first time in 16 years, I have my washer and dryer in the same room. Not only that, but, side-by-side. I know, that doesn't sound like much. But, ever since I moved back home, my washer and dryer have been separated.

When I first moved into this house, the washer was in the bathroom and the dryer on the back porch. At the Sunflower Inn, the washer was in the kitchen and the dryer, again, was relegated to the back porch.

At neither place was the dirty clothes hamper in sight. It had to be kept in whatever corner of the house was available. Now, I'm proud to say, my washer and dryer are reunited, there is a cabinet above them for detergent, loose socks, and such. Not only that, but the hamper resides in the corner, right beside them.

It is almost a pleasure to do laundry now. Dirty clothes into the washer; clean clothes into the dryer and dry clothes folded or hung. One of the neatest things Jim did was to install a clothes rod at the

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



top of the doorway between the utility room and closet. It is right beside the dryer, so I hang clothes up, right out of the dryer. Or, at least, that's what I'm supposed to do. Sometimes we just dress directly out of the dryer.

Yes, I'm one happy girl. Or, as Jim would say, "One gappy hirl."

-ob-

We leave on our annual Thanksgiving pilgrimage to Texas in the morning. That means a "whole lot of stuff" has to be done today. Features written to carry the newspaper through my absence; volunteers to find to run things at The Haven; groceries to pack (mustn't forget to get the turkey out of the freezer); vacuum out the car (maybe a wash if there's time); and, oh yes, pack.

I've already made arrangements for a neighbor kid to babysit the kittens and

gather the eggs. I talked with the big sister of the family about which one of the children would like the job. She said, "If there's kittens, it'll be Andrew." Sounds like they'll get their usual undo amount of attention while we're gone.

We're taking a "hitch-hiker" with us. Eileen has a son living in the Dallas area so she's going to occupy the back seat. She's a fun lady, with an opinion on everything. It will be a dee-lightful trip.

-ob-

In this country we have much to be thankful for. Knowing the poverty of so many in the world, it is humbling to recognize our abundance.

I am, of course, thankful for my wonderful family; thankful for sheets to wash because that means I have a bed to sleep in; thankful for gas bills because that means I have a warm home; and I'm thankful for dirty dishes because that means I have plenty to eat.

And, I thank God I live in America. I thank Him for waking me up and giving me rest; for giving me meaningful work; for giving me friends; but, most of all, for forgiving me.

-ob-

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Lesson is clear: always be prepared

I came across the ad below when cleaning out one of the drawers from my parents' things. I don't know the year, but based on the topic I'm sure it was in the mid to late 1950s. My dad, who always believed in being prepared, built a bomb shelter. It is still standing and I imagine it will be standing for centuries to come. My dad did not always build beautiful, but he always built strong.

But, the message to me from this was that we are a nation forever pushing preparedness and forever looking over our shoulder. Both with good reason. We look back to 9-11 and talk about the ways we weren't prepared, but sometimes in our

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



grief we overlook how prepared we really were for a disaster.

9-11 occurred without a government take-over. It occurred without an assassination. Thousands of people walked

away, although more than 2,600 were killed in the World Trade center alone. Of course, any loss of life is too much, but it is incredible that as many survived as did. Each and every disaster is evaluated and the action plan revised to save more lives and protect more individuals and their property.

The people who help us prepare for these events cannot foresee what may really happen; do not know what kind of catastrophe might occur, but they do know it will take all of us working together to meet the challenges of these events. In the accompanying ad, Ken Neiltopp was the County Civil Defense Director. Since then there have been many emergency planners with the sole purpose of creating an atmosphere of confidence amidst an air of fear.

My parents may not have known where this announcement was, but I can guarantee you my dad knew the signals and was prepared. The threat changes throughout the years, but the dangers remain the same — tornadoes, fires and human activity. I will keep this ad as a reminder that times change, threats change, but as FDR so eloquently told us, fear itself is the greatest threat.

Nuclear Attack Siren Warning Signals for Norton

STEADY BLAST (3- to 5-minute duration).....ALERT SIGNAL
Tune your radio to 640 or 1240 for information and instructions

SERIES OF SHORT BLASTS (for 3 minutes).....TAKE COVER SIGNAL
seek shelter immediately

THREE BLASTSALL CLEAR SIGNAL
The time to prepare fallout protection is BEFORE the sirens sound
Furnished by Ken Neiltopp
Norton County Civil Defense Director

Share your thoughts with a Letter to the Editor